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## **Crook County Schools to Remain Open as State Health Officials Consider Changes to Statewide COVID-19 Metrics**

***Superintendent Dr. Sara Johnson issues public statement to Crook County families***

“Despite a rising COVID case count both locally and nationwide, Crook County schools will remain open next week and into the foreseeable future. In addition to the district’s current waiver request, changing metrics are expected to be announced soon from state officials and will allow our district’s schools to continue operating in the current models.

“I am privileged to be a part of a statewide leadership team helping design a more flexible way of looking at COVID metrics and implications for school operations. Although the final methodology is still in development, I can confidently say, that based on what we know now, I don't see a school closure in our near future.

“Flexibility shouldn't be misinterpreted: As one of the few school districts in Oregon open for students, we have learned important lessons about how to ‘fine-tune’ management of COVID activity. We continue to pay close attention and adhere to precautionary measures, limit exposure, conduct contract tracing, and report any risks. In addition, we are in daily contact with our local health department and incorporate their advice on every move. Our number one aim is to keep students and staff safe, even if numbers rise.

“Please keep in the forefront of your mind that COVID is still a dangerous disease, and we strongly urge people to take the advice of public health authorities and use common sense to protect themselves, our community, and our schools from infection. That's what will get us back to normal operations faster than anything.”

### **About Crook County School District**

Crook County School District is a thriving, rural, growing district in Central Oregon, serving more than 3,000 students from all across Crook County. It is an organization with integrity, a model for educational success, and a recognized leader for excellence in helping students dream, learn, and succeed.

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