



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

June 14, 2023

Director Dave Baden  
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20  
Salem, OR 97301-1097

**Repeal of OAR 333-019-1030**

Director Baden,

It is my understanding that OAR 333-019-1030, which outlines COVID-19 vaccination requirements for teachers and school staff, is being temporarily removed. At a time when Oregon schools continue to face hurdles in hiring licensed educators, classified staff, bus drivers and the ability to return volunteers to the classroom, I am shocked that this rule was not previously eliminated by the agency or the Governor.

Oregon's school children suffered greatly during the two years of lost learning and returning them to classrooms that are not fully staffed is a continuation of Oregon's lack of commitment to a quality education. Taxpayers are paying for an education for our children, businesses are paying the CAT for services to our kids, and the state continues to limit the pool of eligible individuals that can fulfill that need.

When the rule went into effect on October 18th, 2021, the requirement was that anyone over the age of 16 who was employed or volunteering at a school be "fully vaccinated" – which meant "having received both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine". Since October of 2021, the medical community has recognized the effectiveness of the vaccine diminish overtime <sup>1</sup> and have recommended boosters for some populations. Populations whose medical reasons are protected by law. However, for most people they are currently protected to some degree through natural immunity or vaccination. Additionally, the therapeutic treatment options are now readily available and very effective and have proven to keep most of the people out of the hospital. There are many more tools in the toolbox now compared to October 2021.

It is not helpful to limit who can work or volunteer in Oregon schools and is creating unnecessary work for school administrators without a clear benefit, and a detriment to our kids. We should instead be focused on helping children recover from the extreme learning loss resulting from prolonged school closures. We should be giving them staff and resources to help them catch up.

Beginning April 1st, 2022, the Department of Administrative Services no longer required vaccination as a condition of employment or as a condition for new hires. So, employees can work for the Department of Education unvaccinated but cannot yet work in public schools. This seems very contradictory.

I urge OHA to permanently eliminate this Administrative Rule and give school children the classroom help they deserve.

Regards,

Anna Scharf  
State Representative – HD 23

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<sup>1</sup> journal Science. SARS-CoV-2 vaccine protection and deaths among US veterans during 2021 <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abm0620>