Gervais School District
ESTABLISHED 1834

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Within our growing, diverse community, we sow the seeds of opportunities to raise prepared, resilient students.

September 11, 2026

TO: Staff, Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members

RE: Gervais School District's Justification for the Decision Not To Restore Lost Student Instructional Time as Required by Executive Order 26-06 and OAR 581-022-2323

On April 16, 2026, Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 26-06 without input from any school district's leadership. According to Section 4.c. of the order, "If a district or public charter school, at the direction of their board, chooses not to restore lost student instructional time, the district or public charter school must publicly explain their justification for that choice." OAR 581-022-2323 was adopted by the State Board of Education to codify and implement the executive order. Student instructional time is defined in OAR 581-022-2323 as "the total hours students are in school, bell-to-bell, including recess, lunch, passing time, and instruction."

Amount of Student Instructional Time Reduced in 2025-26 and/or 2026-27 SY:

- For the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years, kindergarten students receive 12 hours less of instructional time compared to students in grades 1-5.

Amount of Student Instructional Time Planned for the 2027-28 SY:

- Kindergarten students will receive 955 hours which is still above the required amount of hours.

Justification

On July 16, 2026, the Gervais School Board supported the superintendent's recommendation to not to restore lost student instructional time for the following reason(s):

The Gervais School District is part of the Oregon Department of Education's "Family Conversations" pilot program which includes a suggested model of meeting with incoming kindergarten families individually the first two days of school and then bringing in all kindergarten students to start full time on the third day. The Board felt this was a completely acceptable reason for kindergarten students to have fewer instructional hours especially when

following the model suggested by the Oregon Department of Education. Additionally, Gervais Elementary staff provided positive feedback on this model of practice and felt it allowed for a smoother transition for students and their parents as students begin this new phase of their lives.

The School Board also expressed frustration at an executive order at the state level that was made with limited input and information from local school districts, that conflicted with current practices recommended by the Oregon Department of Education, and disregarded local control on what practices work for the district's families.

Sincerely,

Dandy Stevens
Superintendent

Jenny Jones
Gervais School District Board Chair

You may view the board's discussion of this issue by following the link below and the discussion begins at 11:49.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX3UThoKGZw