

IMESD District Board Talking Points

March 2021

School Reopening The positive trends continue for our region. Case rates continue to decline, vaccinations are up, and schools are opening more and more. IMESD is gearing up to assist component districts with on-site COVID testing. We are entering a new phase of returning to “normal,” which is exciting but will come with a new set of challenges for school leaders.

Umatilla and Union counties received great news on February 24! Umatilla moved from Extreme to High, Union from Extreme to Moderate. Morrow remains in Moderate. This allows more openings of businesses, restaurants, etc. For the schools, it means a slight lifting of restrictions for specific programs, however, schools are still operating under ODE’s *Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL)* requirements. Hopefully, our counties will continue to decline in positive case numbers in March.

State Budget An updated state economic forecast was recently released. Revenues were higher than anticipated, which will likely result in the kicker being implemented. Shocking, really, when you think of the impact of the pandemic. There is still a “hole” in the 21-23 biennium, but the legislature has available tools to adequately fund K-12 programs, including the Corporate Activities Tax and reserves. Oregon, like most states, is also hoping for additional federal support from the stimulus package.

Crystal Apple Ceremony IMESD will host the annual Crystal Apple ceremonies to honor outstanding regional educators. As we get closer, we will evaluate the current status of pandemic restrictions and plan multiple scenarios. The dates are as follows:

- May 3 Union County
- May 10 Umatilla and Morrow Counties

MISSION VISION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.