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## **IMESD District Board Talking Points October 2020**

**School Reopening** Seven IMESD component districts continue to effectively operate in-person.

As I write this update, we did not experience a single COVID case in the following districts: Burnt River, North Powder, Union, Cove, Imbler, Elgin, and Ukiah. These districts are to be commended for implementing strong safety protocols and procedures. Let's hope this pattern continues!

Umatilla and Morrow County districts are settling into Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). The time and effort planning over the summer is paying off. Although we want our students back in-person, it is clear teaching and learning is occurring at a much higher rate than last spring. The dedication and commitment by our staff, students, and parents to "make CDL work" is encouraging.

ODE is currently gathering data for a school reopening review this month. Since the situation is fluid, they will continue to monitor state progress and metrics.

**State Budget Forecast** The September forecast presented a brighter financial outlook than earlier anticipated. Despite the pandemic, revenue for the 20-21 year was higher than previous projections. This scenario ensures funding for current State School Fund, Measure 98, and SIA programs. The 21-23 biennium is murkier but, once again, projections are not as dire as we were led to believe despite the ongoing pandemic and catastrophic wildfires. However, we must be cautious moving forward. According to Governor Brown, "While revenue projections are up for this biennium, the revenue forecast did not balance our upcoming budget, and we must tread lightly."