

## West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community

March 11, 2021

To: Kathy Ludwig, WLWV Superintendent  
Regan Molatore, WLWV School Board Chair  
Chelsea King, WLWV School Board Vice-Chair  
Ginger Fitch, WLWV School Board Member  
Dylan Hydes, WLWV School Board Member  
Christy Thompson, WLWV School Board Member  
Kelly Douglas, WLWV Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board

From: The West Linn Alliance (West Linn Alliance for Inclusive Community)

The members of the West Linn Alliance are writing in support of the request by concerned parents, family members, community members, educators, faith leaders, and allies, to the West Linn-Wilsonville School District to adjust the planned start date for the 2021-22 school year so that it does not conflict with Rosh Hashanah.

The Alliance is aware that the district has an equitable plan for handling absences for religious holidays, and that you strive toward establishing equity for all your students and staff. We continue to support your efforts and the strides you have made in DEI for all.

Unfortunately, the school calendar and the Jewish calendar collided this year. The first day of school, probably the most important day of the school year, the day that students look forward to with anticipation, (particularly after the alterations due to Covid-19), has been set for September 7, the day after Labor Day. Unfortunately, this year that day turns out to be the first day of Rosh Hashanah, one of the holiest days in the Jewish religion. It is a day of worship, not of school or work.

In the last few days, the Oregon School Board Association sent a letter to all Oregon school boards urging them to adjust their start dates to remedy this situation. We, the members of the West Linn Alliance, urge you to do the same.