



Oregon School District

123 East Grove Street, Oregon, WI 53575

608-835-4000

www.oregonsd.org

February 13, 2017

Jonathan Temte, MD, PhD
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health
Department of Family Medicine and community Health
1100 Delaplaine Court
Madison, WI 53715

RE: ORCHARDS-2

Dear Dr. Temte:

I write to extend my enthusiastic and ongoing support, and that of the Oregon School District, for the Oregon Child Absenteeism due to Respiratory Disease Study (ORCHARDS) and its continuation as ORCHARDS-2. I see this extended study as a natural expansion of our successful partnership with your team to evaluate influenza transmission in our community. Respiratory infections have a significant effect on attendance and academic performance of our students. Better understanding these infections will benefit our students and their families, our six schools, teachers, student health personnel, and our administration team, as well as the broader community.

To facilitate recruitment of students from across our district for illness testing, we will continue to allow an announcement in the registration packet and provide a table at the annual district registration for your staff to hand out flyers and provide information about the study. In addition, we will work with you and your staff to send announcements and recruiting information by way of the 3,600 email addresses we maintain for families with children within our district. We will also continue to post information on our school district website.

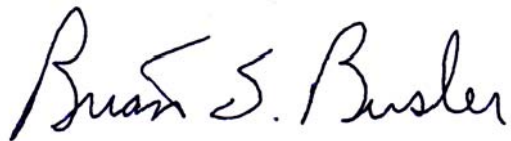
We have been very satisfied with your team's approach of using our information technology resources, namely Infinite Campus, and modifying them to seamlessly report absenteeism. We appreciate your efforts to work with our attendance staff to create a system that fits into their demanding schedule and does not add work. We also appreciate the weekly feedback letters to our school nurses and your willingness to teach in our Biotechnology course. We remain supportive of possible implementation of school-based detection of influenza.

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ORCHARDS has supported our efforts to become more aware of community trends in health issues. Should this project continue to be funded, we would be interested in having you and your staff present information about influenza vaccination, outbreaks, and other health topics to the staff at all 6 schools.

On a more personal note, I am impressed that the ORCHARDS team includes many parents of students in our district. This adds credibility and an important community connection that will help to assure success.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian S. Busler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Brian S. Busler, PhD
Superintendent
Oregon School District