



*Making a Difference.*

Spotlighting How ESAs Impact the Nation's Education System

## Healthy Partnerships Bring Vaccine To Educators in Oregon and Texas

**WHO:** Clackamas Education Service District, Clackamas, OR; Region 10 Education Service Center, Richardson, Texas

**CHALLENGE:** As the first COVID-19 vaccines became available in 2021, officials in the greater Portland Oregon area and northern Texas recognized that making sure educators were among the first to be vaccinated was a top priority. However, since there were thousands of educators and large geographic areas involved, the logistics were difficult.

**SOLUTION:** In both states, Education Service Districts (ESDs) realized that partnerships with health care providers could streamline the vaccination process.

In Oregon, the Clackamas Education Service District reached out to four health care providers – Kaiser, OHSU, Legacy and Providence – and helped form a partnership with the providers and two other Education Service Districts. In less than a month, the group planned and launched a large scale vaccination clinic in downtown Portland.

In Texas, the Region 10 Education Service Center collaborated with two supermarket chain pharmacies – Tom Thumb and Albertsons – that had vaccine and personnel but no central location. Region 10 opened its headquarters to provide a central vaccination site. Personnel from the Oregon and Texas ESDs helped organize and coordinate the clinics in their respective states.

**RESULT:** Thousands of educators were vaccinated at both clinics, which helped advance the statewide efforts to reopen schools to in-person learning.

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**Pullout Quote:** “Today means peace of mind. Today means I can finally go visit my grandmother. Today means that hopefully I won’t spread a deadly virus to others...Just to think that we are getting a little closer to normal, or some sort of normalcy where I can finally give my kids a high five. It means the world,” said Texas high school teacher Andre Watson.