



# HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

September 8, 2020

Hood River County School District (HRCSD) decided to keep the online learning platform, Acellus, after learning that some public schools in Hawaii and California dropped it after complaints on questionable content.

Learning this news was concerning to HRCSD so the administration contacted Acellus for more information. Acellus staff notified HRCSD that it had reviewed and removed lessons and videos that caused concerns and complaints.

Teachers who are using Acellus this year will review content and videos carefully prior to assigning it to their students. If a teacher identifies any questionable and/or inappropriate content, he/she will inform the supervising administrator. HRCSD will work directly with Acellus to address any content deemed questionable and/or inappropriate.

Parents and students who come across any concerning content that was assigned should report the specific location of such content immediately to their school principal as well as Acellus.

HRCSD paid staff to review Acellus courses in 2017-18, ultimately approving the online learning platform for use within Hood River Options Academy (HROA), a program that was originally established to support students who preferred to be in an online learning setting as opposed to the traditional brick and mortar classroom. Staff feedback was used in order to implement the structure that is used today for HROA. NCAA approved Acellus in the 2018-19 school year.

Acellus is one part of a larger online learning curriculum for HROA. HROA uses Acellus for core content and electives, and HROA also offers students additional support from teachers and blended learning opportunities. HROA teachers work alongside teachers at neighborhood schools to ensure alignment in content and curriculum among each education level.

HROA includes approximately 900 students from kindergarten to 12th grade. Many families said they chose to enroll their students in HROA because it provides them flexibility to work with their students on schoolwork when it is convenient for them.

When HROA was established in September 2017, enrollment was 20 students. In the past three years, HROA graduates have strong graduation rates (95% in 2019-20; 90% in 2018-19) and attended a variety of colleges. Some HROA students have established businesses and/or pursued life passions. 95 percent graduation rate in 2019-20.

These times are unprecedented and challenging. HRCSD staff and teachers are committed to implementing the best possible learning opportunities for Hood River County students under the given circumstances and resources available.

For more information on Hood River County School District and its schools, please visit [www.hoodriver.k12.or.us](http://www.hoodriver.k12.or.us) or call (541) 387-2511.