



**Representative Jeff Reardon**  
House District 48 (East Portland & Happy Valley)  
(503) 986-1448  
H-491

## HB 2984

*Appropriates moneys to Department of Education for early childhood development center at Earl Boyles Elementary School.*

House Committee on Human Services & Housing  
Testimony of State Representative Jeff Reardon  
April 3, 2013

I'm pleased to introduce to this committee HB 2984, which seeks to bolster early childhood education in the State of Oregon. I am joined today by an esteemed panel of educators and advocates who will do an excellent job of explaining why early education is an outcomes-based investment and how it works to close the achievement gap.

For early education programs to succeed in Oregon, the programs must follow a strong model. When I was a shop teacher, I always taught my students that projects need a strong foundation. Earl Boyles is the ideal foundation, or pilot program, for early childhood education. I am so proud of my local community for stepping up last spring in supporting a bond measure to fund the Early Works program. The David Douglas School District is not exactly a wealthy district, but residents, nonetheless, chose to put childhood education first. As a result, this program is shovel-ready and awaiting greater investment from the state. The investment we request today also fits into the OEIB strategy for achieving 40-40-20.

It is my experience that David Douglas often tends to take the lead on education issues, despite challenges. Over 80% of the students in our district receive free or reduced-price lunch, and about 25% of them are learning the English language at school. As such, David Douglas has long offered a breakfast program for kids and has implemented full-day kindergarten to make sure our students are truly ready to learn. These programs work; that's why legislators and advocates are seeking this session to expand both programs statewide.

I see no better place to house a pilot program than in a fairly impoverished district that has consistently performed well, and where the community has pulled together to fund a significant portion of the project. I firmly believe Earl Boyles will set an excellent example for other schools in Oregon that are ready to help their students succeed from day one.

I ask for you aye vote today, to show your continued support for providing to Oregon students the best education we can offer.