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TO: Joint Ways and Means Education Sub-Committee

FROM: Dr. Sheldon Berman, Superintendent

DATE: May 10, 2013

SUBJECT: FUNDING PROFICIENCY-BASED TEACHING & LEARNING

I am writing to encourage your support of funding proficiency instruction as provided for in HB 3233. Eugene School District 4J has experienced positive and compelling results in piloting proficiency-based teaching and learning practices in its schools, and funding to bring it to scale in districts across the state is essential to learning success for students in Oregon.

Proficiency-based instruction has allowed our teachers to be more specific and targeted in their instruction and better able to gauge student progress. This has led to increasingly effective and timely interventions so that students do not fall behind in their learning. From receiving proficiency-based instruction, our students have demonstrated a clearer understanding of what they should know, understand, and be able to do. This has led to increased student engagement, motivation, and ownership in the learning process; this in turn has produced higher quality work and learner independence among our students.

Given the positive results we have experienced, Eugene School District 4J would like to expand proficiency practices within its classrooms. Support from the Oregon legislature for proficiency practices in Oregon schools would support this effort. Beyond our local efforts, such support is crucial for ensuring that the learning potential of students across the state is fulfilled.

Yours truly,

Dr. Sheldon Berman
Superintendent