



## OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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TO: Ways and Means Education Subcommittee Committee  
FROM: Joel Fischer, Senior Policy Analyst, Oregon Business Association  
RE: SB 271 - Educator Professional Development Improvement  
DATE: May 22, 2013

The Oregon Business Association, representing over 300 businesses across Oregon, urges you to support SB 271, the next step in improving Oregon educator professional development.

As schools around the nation and the world improve, our members want to ensure that Oregon students are globally competitive. Only 68% of Oregon high school students graduate on time with a regular diploma. Yet, 87% of new jobs in Oregon require post-secondary education.

Studies have shown that effective teachers have the largest impact on students, despite age, race, geography or socio-economic levels. If a quality educator makes a difference for *all* kids, it is where we should focus *all* our efforts to improve Oregon's education outcomes equally.

In business, success is dependent on constantly growing, staying ahead of the curve and improving skills. We believe the same is true in schools. Improving our state's professional development program and increasing opportunities for educators leads to long-term growth and the ultimate success of their students.

SB 271 is part two in a collaborative effort to get this done. The legislature made the first step to building a solution in 2009 by implementing a statewide delivery system for quality core professional development that included a clearinghouse of programs for local districts that are research-based, ongoing, sustained, and centered on student achievement. Now we must take the next step by centralizing administration of professional development and implementing the program in schools both urban and rural, big and small, rich and poor.

As we look for Oregon business to grow and thrive, we must make sure that the teachers who are training the workers of tomorrow are also excelling. A revamped and revitalized educator professional development program will give schools the tools their teachers need and will result in increased achievement for our kids.