



March 12, 2013

Co-Chairs Monroe & Komp  
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature

RE: SB 5518 & SB 5519

Co-Chair Monroe, Co-Chair Komp, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Oregon Department of Education's budget for the upcoming biennium.

Chalkboard was formed by six of Oregon's largest foundations with the mission of moving Oregon's schools into the top ten in the nation as measured by student achievement. We now receive support from over 30 foundations and charitable funds. We work closely with professionals in the field, such as the Distinguished Educators Council, and community leaders, such as the school board members and parents who serve on our Advisory Council. We believe that our independent role is an asset to strengthening teaching and learning in the state. We also believe that Oregon can have one of the best education systems in the country, but we have significant work to do.

That is why we are encouraged by the new direction and leadership at the Oregon Department of Education. Chalkboard will continue to offer our support to the Department to achieve the objectives put forth in its newly developed strategic plan. This includes lending our experience with successful pilot projects such as CLASS (Creative Leadership Achieves Student Success), pushing on legislation to diversify the teacher workforce, and providing technical assistance, in partnership with OEA and ODE, to deliver urgent support to districts implementing the new performance evaluation requirements of SB 290.

Moving Oregon forward will take a broad range of stakeholders working together to benefit students. We applaud the Co-Chairs and the Governor for making education a priority. We know that funding matters and we are pleased to see the Co-Chairs do everything they can to put more resources into the classroom.

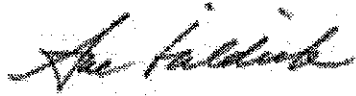
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We also know that those dollars have to be invested in strategies that can move the dial for Oregon's students. In the classroom, there is no factor more important to student success than great teaching. We will continue to push for state-level support for professional educators across Oregon and we will take every opportunity to partner with the Oregon Department of Education in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Hildick".

Sue Hildick  
President, Chalkboard Project