



Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future

**Springfield
Public Schools**

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To: 2013 Oregon Legislature
From: Dr. Brian Megert, D.Ed., Special Programs Director, Springfield School District
Date: April 2013
Re: **Support for HB 2192-A**

In Springfield School District #19 (SPS), we support HB 2192, regarding school discipline. SPS favors the use of prevention and intervention efforts in the area of discipline at the district, school, classroom, and individual student level. HB 2192 removes one-size fits all “zero-tolerance” requirements from Oregon’s statutes and will allow school administrators greater discretion to make individualized decisions regarding student behavior.

HB 2192 Promotes Prevention: We strive to maintain a positive school culture and treat incidents of misbehavior as teachable moments. We teach students desired behaviors and school staff acknowledge and reward desired behaviors. We use graduated approaches for providing consequences for misbehavior, which includes a method for teaching the desired behaviors. These school-wide behavioral supports are research-based and should be implemented statewide.

HB 2192 Increases Discretion: There are multiple scenarios when students bring items to school that could be considered dangerous. We believe that discretion is best left to the school district personnel who know the students and who have the experience to assess a student’s motivation and intent. We do not want to be forced to expel students without being able to assess a situation, for instance, when a student feels unsafe due to bullying.

In addition, we also want to make sure that we do not discipline students harshly when they simply make mistakes by bringing items to school that they should not – particularly when younger students lack understanding as to why an item may be dangerous in the school environment. We would miss an important teachable moment by simply excluding such students.

Research finds many negative consequences of exclusion: We know that student misbehavior often results from deficits in academic and social skills. Excluding students, in many cases, will lead them to feel even more marginalized. We believe that consequences are necessary when students misbehave, but legislation that provides a level of flexibility is necessary in order to take strategic and appropriate actions.

Springfield School District supports House Bill 2192-A

From the Desk of Senator Lee Beyer