

February 5, 2015

Chair Arnie Roblan
Oregon Senate Education Committee
900 Court St NE, S-417
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of the 16 Lane County Superintendents. We believe it is too early to sunset the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). The new P-20 governance structure has not yet had an opportunity to fulfill its promise.

OEIB's initial start-up, under previous leadership, was problematic. But, we see positive change under OEIB's current staff leadership. The state's Chief Education Officer, Nancy Golden, is a longtime colleague. She is someone who builds trust by listening to the educators, parents, communities of color, and advocacy groups that know the needs of Oregon's children, then through visionary and bold leadership creates partnerships and allies focused on meeting those needs.

It is not time to give up on OEIB, it is still in its infancy. It needs your guidance and direction. OEIB has recently taken some steps that deserve praise and support:

- It has re-worked the Achievement Compact model into a system to be more inclusive of community and incubate local innovations in student support and academic achievement.
- It has shifted course with its strategic initiatives from a system that was competitive and limited the number of districts and students that could benefit from innovation; to one that is inclusive and supports investment and change across the state's school districts.
- With its *Equity Lens*, it has developed a model for embracing diversity and striving to meet the needs of *all* of our children. It is a far-reaching model that has been replicated across the state.

There are other areas where OEIB is beginning to fulfill its promise, with its focus on breaking down barriers between our education silos (early learning, K-12, and higher education) and its newly proposed investments in early literacy, pathways to college completion, and workforce development.

And, there are changes you could make to improve OEIB's future performance:

- Ensure the Board's make-up is representative of both our student population in Oregon and of the key education stake-holders in Oregon.
- Create a clear delineation of responsibility between education decision-makers like the OEIB, the State Board of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Early Learning Council, the Quality Education Commission, and others.
- Provide a clear pathway of responsibility and communication between education leaders (Chief Education Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, HECC Executive Director, and the Early Learning System Director) and the State Superintendent (Governor).

Other changes may be helpful as well. We urge you to engage with COSA, OSBA, OEA and others to seek ways to temporarily extend and improve OEIB. We support seeking improvement, however we strongly believe moving forward with an aligned P-20 system that supports our children from birth to career and citizenry is the right path for Oregon.

Respectfully,
Sally J. Storm, Ph.D.
Chair of the Lane ESD Superintendent Council
Superintendent, Fern Ridge School District