



**To: Senate Education Committee**  
**Date: March 5, 2015**  
**RE: Opposition to SB 214**

The Oregon Education Association (OEA), representing 42,000 professional educators across Oregon opposes state-wide, one-size-fits-all mandates for local schools such as those proposed in SB 214. Additionally, OEA opposes the effort to privatize essential functions of the public school system.

Section 2 of SB 214 delineates stringent state-level criteria that local programs must meet in order to comply with state rules. OEA objects to this type of state mandated approach and believes that local districts and the professional educators in each district are best equipped to make the decisions regarding the education provided in their classrooms.

Section 5, subsection 2 of SB 214 states private entities will be responsible for providing summer and after-school reading programs. It reads: "...the (Department of Education) shall award grants to community based organizations and tribes to implement early learning programs." We are concerned that school districts will thus be precluded from providing the services directly using professional educators in our public schools who already have the skills and training to provide quality early reading education.

We are aware that amendments are being discussed for SB 214 that might ameliorate some of the most problematic aspects of SB 214.

OEA requests that the bill be amended so that local districts continue to have the flexibility to use their expertise on the ground to determine the best curriculum for their students; and that the bill not preclude the awarding of early reading initiative grants directly to public school districts.

Until these concerns are addressed, we ask that you oppose SB 214.