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SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

March 9, 2015

Chair Sara Gelsler, Vice Chair Kruse and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Analicia Nicholson, Director of Curriculum and Winston-Dillard School District. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continues the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

*Value of the work*

- We know that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time.
- Economic prosperity
- Best return on investment
- Setting children up for success from day one
- Getting to 40-40-20 will require investing in children before they enter the school doors

*How Hubs add value*

- It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that the experiences a child has during those early years creates a strong foundation for future success.
- The hub is creating new partnerships across K-12 schools, early education, health, human services and business that will change the way we currently support young children and families in our region and lead to more effective and efficient services. For example, Winston-Dillard has begun to meet monthly with local partners to develop a collaborative plan to support pre-K families.
- As an educator I am used to having very little knowledge of the experiences students are having before they enter the classroom. Being connected to early learning programs and services in my community has given me greater insight and helped me strengthened my own practices to support students in the classroom.

*Impact you've seen*

- As a result of our partnership and innovation grant, our community has seen partners from multiple agencies gather together to discuss how we can collaboratively support pre-K students.

- Children and families are benefiting from the early learning and K-12 collaboration. We've had twenty-six families participate in 2 parent academies. This spring the work will continue with one more parent academy. Then kindergarten teachers will perform home visits to learn about the "hopes and dreams" families have for their children.
- As an educator I see firsthand the impact of investing early, kindergarten students will come to school with kindergarten readiness skills. Families and guardians have acquire knowledge in child development and understand the appropriate skills they should teach and practice with their children.

*Ask*

- The South Central Oregon Early Learning Hub is changing the way we meet the needs of children and families in our community.
- I urge you to support SB 213 and this transformation of early learning in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Analicia Nicholson  
Director of Curriculum  
Winston-Dillard School District