



*Office of the Superintendent*

Medford School District 549C

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Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee  
Chair - Sara Gelser, Vice Chair – Olsen, Members of the Committee

**RE: SB 213 Early Learning Hubs**

Distinguished Colleagues:

I am Brian Shumate, the Superintendent of the Medford 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.

The work of early learning and early childhood development is vital to all Oregonians. We know that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time in their development. We know that early interventions sets a child up for future academic success. We know that high school graduation, college and career readiness and helping Oregon achieve its 40-40-20 goals begin with early learning, and we know that the economic prosperity of the state depends on it.

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. 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 strengthen my own practices in the classroom.

As a result of our partnership and innovation grant, our community has seen a dramatic impact in the family and community involvement around the issues of early learning at Jackson Elementary and its surrounding community. Children and families are benefiting from the early learning and K-12 collaboration. We are seeing that children are more comfortable when they enter the school, families feel more comfortable connecting with teachers and asking questions and students who have experienced summer transition activities are entering the classroom with greater literacy, numeracy and social and emotional skills.

As an educator I see firsthand the impact of investing early and I fully support this critical initiative.

**I urge you to support SB 213 and this transformation of early learning in Oregon.** Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Shumate, Ph.D.  
Superintendent