

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

March 1, 2015

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

For the record, I am, Janelle Hubbard, Fifth Grade Teacher at Hucrest Elementary in Roseburg, Oregon. I have been attending the Ready for Kindergarten classes for three year olds. 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 local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten has tremendous benefit. The Ready for Kindergarten classes have taught families how to bring learning into their homes in fun ways.

The Hubs are bringing families to the table to be true partners in this work. For example, *the learning tools that parents receive help families learn together*. My children have enjoyed using the materials provided from these classes and feel successful with the easy to use tools. The Ready for Kindergarten classes have helped parents feel knowledgeable about the skills their children need to be able to have before entering Kindergarten. Families are their children's first and best teachers. If we can better support families in this role, we can better prepare our children to succeed in kindergarten.

Hubs are designed to take a step back and first identify the underserved young children in the region, identify their early learning needs, and then work with partners to meet those needs or find ways to fill the gaps when they are identified. This process allows families values and needs to drive the work. It's taught us important activities to help strengthening our child's academic skills and making sure our child is better prepared for kindergarten and their future learning and education.

The instructors had great knowledge to share and it was helpful hearing their expert advice and suggestions. Although much of the information wasn't new to me, I appreciated knowing that I am doing the right things and am glad to have new techniques to add to my bag of tricks. I definitely recommend this class to all families with 3 year olds.

Strengthening early learning through the Hubs will benefit children, families and our region. I urge your support of SB 213.

Sincerely,

Janelle Hubbard