

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 Jennifer Lynn, Title 1 Coordinator and the person leading the Early Learning grant for my school district, Riddle. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continues the work of local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

This hub is important to Riddle because the children come to school lacking so many skills that they do not receive at home. We know that a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time in their lives. Many parents in the area do not have strong parenting skills and need help and information. They had no role models as they were growing up so they do not have the skills. The Early Learning grant is setting children up for success from an early age. They gain the skills needed to be successful learners from the family to the schools to the community. The goal of the state of Oregon is to get 40-40-20. This means that our children need to be successful at each level of education. This will require investing in children before they enter the elementary school.

The Early Learning Hub is creating new partnerships across K-12 schools, early education, health, human services and business that will change the way we work with and support young children and families in our area. This will lead to more effective and efficient services.

As a result of our partnership and Innovation grant, our community has seen that students who have experienced summer transition activities are entering the kindergarten classroom with greater literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional skills.

The Douglas County Early Learning Hub is changing the way we meet the needs of children and families in our community. I urge you to support SB213 and this transition of early learning in Oregon.