



## LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

1200 Highway 99 North  
Eugene, OR 97402

541.461.8200  
541.461.8298 [Fax]

[www.lesd.k12.or.us](http://www.lesd.k12.or.us)

EQUITY    COMMITMENT    LEADERSHIP    COLLABORATION    INTEGRITY

March 4, 2015

Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 213 Early Learning Hubs

Chair Sara Gelser, Vice Chair Jeff Olsen and Members of the Committee,

As the superintendent for Lane Education Service District, I would like to respectfully submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 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 -*

- Prominent business associations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable, recognize how essential early learning is to a prepared workforce and a strong economy.
- Focusing on early learning and development provides the most effective and efficient returns when it comes to investments in human capital.
- Our community has 6-7,000 underserved children. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. It is our responsibility to close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success.

### *How Hubs add value -*

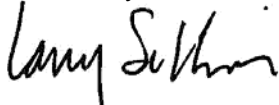
- Together we are holding ourselves accountable for better understanding our community needs and working together to meet them.
- Our Hub is clearly identifying what success looks like in our community, driving resources and leveraging programs toward those defined goals. For example, the percentage of children ages 0-3 years in our community who receive at least one developmental screening has more than doubled from 16.3% to 39.8%. We expect those numbers to continue to increase.
- If our Hub receives continued support this session, we will continue to implement our strategic plan in order to meet early learning metrics. For example, resources may be used to invest in kindergarten transition activities to help ease the anxiety of the transition to formal education for families and children; we may implement contracts with culturally-specific community based organizations to reach families with culturally responsive programming; and we could provide additional early learning supports to children whose families receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Through our early literacy grant, we've brought partners together and trained over 100 local early learning providers in evidence-based early literacy curricula. A book rotation has been established, currently serving 350 parents through our network of school-based Family Resource Centers and 60 child care providers through our local Child Care Resource and Referral agency. Over 2,000 books have been distributed to children through our three Summer Reading Spots program held in local parks in conjunction with Food for Lane County's Summer Lunch Program.

Having focused goals as a Hub has changed the conversation about early learning in our community. We've changed the way we do business – including the transformation of our governance and meeting structures, development of data collection and sharing protocols, and the shared ownership of early learning across early learning, health, K-12 education, human service, and business sectors.

Building relationships across sectors allows us to focus less on silos and more on families. We have done significant work in the community to build relationships and create the infrastructure of a true early learning system. I urge your support of this locally driven work and SB 213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L".

Larry Sullivan, PhD  
Superintendent