

March 4, 2015

SB 213: Early Learning Hubs

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

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

As kindergarten teachers at Eastwood Elementary School in Roseburg Oregon, we are excited to be a part of the South Central Oregon Early Learning Hub. Our names are Dixie Sturman and Nancy Neal and we are pleased to support SB213.

SB213 makes the Early Learning Hubs permanent and continues the work of our local community. It ensures children are ready to succeed in kindergarten by aligning early learning systems and supporting our local families.

We understand that:

- this program helps to set children up for early on success.
- a child's brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time in life.
- early success follows them throughout their school experience.
- strong academic skills will boost potential economic prosperity and success.

Our Hub adds value by:

- ensuring that the experiences a child has during their early years create a strong foundation for future achievements.
- creating partnerships across K-12 schools which include administrators, teachers, and parents to support young children and families in our community.

Our future students and their families are benefiting from the "Ready for K" ages 3-4 program by having lessons presented to them on literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional skills. The South Central Oregon Early Learning Hub is changing the way we meet the needs of children and families in our local community.

Regards,

- *Dixie Sturman*

- *Nancy Neal*

Dixie Sturman

Nancy Neal

Kindergarten Teachers at Eastwood Elementary School