



ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL

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March 10, 2015

RE: SB 213: Early Learning Hubs, Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee

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

For the record, I am Wayne Herron Superintendent of the Elgin School District. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 213. SB 213 will ensure the valuable work that our local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems will continue.

Having been a k-12 educator for 30 years, I was unaware of the overwhelming significance of the first five years of a child's life. The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub has opened my eyes to the importance of collaboration between early learning agencies and local school districts.

The Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub was instrumental in the organization of the Professional Learning Teams (PLT's) that were developed between Headstart, pre-school and kindergarten. The Elgin School District attributes some of the success of its kindergarten readiness outcomes to a more systematic approach.

In order to reach the educational goal of a seamless pre-k to 20 system the work of the Early Learning Hubs are, without question, extremely necessary. For Oregon to "move the dial" with everything from, kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading scores, and to eventually graduation rates a collaborative effort is imperative.

Important work has been started and SB 213 will ensure it continues. I urge you to support SB 213.

Sincerely,

Wayne Herron
Superintendent
Elgin School District

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