

Subject: SB 819 Support Letter

Dear Education Committee,

We are writing to ask for your support of SB 819. We are residents of the Woodstock neighborhood and parents of a third grader who attends Opal School, a Portland public charter school. The fact that Opal school (and other charters) receive less funding per child than other children in typical public school settings is unfair, problematic and directly affects our child's educational experience.

Opal school is a great place for children to thrive and grow. It also promotes academic excellence through a philosophy that takes a modern and thoughtful approach. It is well known throughout the county (and even the world) as a model school with an innovative approach. My sister is a professor of education at Los Angeles Community College and she tells me that in her professional world, she hears about what is going on at Opal school often. This school truly has a wide range of influence. It is a place that teachers come to learn how to be good teachers.

Perhaps most importantly, my son wants to go to school each day.

The negative impact of lesser funding is the high turnover of staff at the school because of low teacher salary. This turnover affects the stability of the school and the community of learners. It seems like each summer as seasoned staff leave and new staff arrive, the school has to reinvent itself. It's very frustrating because the school has so much to offer not just to children but to the greater educational community. The school would be able to do so much more with an equitable share of funding per child.

We ask that you hear our voices by representing us and saying yes to SB 819.

Thank you,
Susan Skousen Goodell
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