



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

200 SW Market Street, Suite L100 Portland, Oregon 97201
Ph: 503-641-0990 Fax: 503-641-0959 oba@oba-online.org www.oba-online.org

To: House Committee on Education
From: Joel Fischer, Senior Policy Analyst at Oregon Business Association
Date: April 10, 2015
Re: House Bill 3380

Dear Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education,

From education redesign to the 40-40-20 education achievement goal, Oregon Business Association has a long history of supporting initiatives that invest in the education funding and is committed to reforms and policies that will benefit all of Oregon's students and enrich our state by closing the achievement gap, creating more opportunities for Oregon students, and ensuring an educated workforce.

House Bill 3380 sets high quality standards for pre-school programs in Oregon and makes pre-school available for more of Oregon's low income children. OBA supports the creation of a mixed delivery pre-school program. Research has proven that focus on early childhood education is fundamental to success later in life.

According to the Department of Education, Oregon has the second lowest high school graduation rate in the nation. Studies show that the unemployment rates for adults who do not graduate high school is around 17%, which is much higher than the rate for those who complete their education. In addition, research shows that children who are not reading at grade level by 3rd grade are four times more likely to not graduate high school. In 2011-2012, nearly 28% of Oregon 3rd graders did not demonstrate proficiency in reading. The numbers are clear- early education is essential in ensuring long term success for Oregon's children and in turn, the overall wellbeing of the state.

OBA supports House bill 3380 as a strategy for providing a framework for Oregon's youngest children to build the necessary foundation for success in later life and in the workforce.

Joel Fischer
Senior Policy Analyst
Oregon Business Association
503-706-4652