



Support Black Youth – Vote YES on HB 2016

Throughout the education system (from early childhood to college), black children in our state experience severe disparities in education outcomes. The consequences are lower high school graduation rates, fewer black students entering post-secondary institutions, and higher levels of unemployment as adults.

It is time we as a state get serious about addressing these disparities!

House Bill 2016 serves as a first step towards developing and implementing strategies to improve the academic experience and success of black children in Oregon.

If passed, the bill directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to work with the Early Learning Division, Youth Development Division, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, community members, and education stakeholders to develop a statewide education plan for black youth to address the educational needs of black students, including:

- Opportunity gaps between black students and all other students at every indicator of academic success, as documented by ODE's statewide report card;
- Disciplinary disparities experienced by black students;
- Culturally appropriate educational materials and services to increase retention and graduation rates; and
- Historical practices leading to disproportionate outcomes.

The bill requires ODE to provide a report on the plan to the legislature by no later than January 1, 2016, and updated each even numbered year.

Under this legislation, ODE will award grants to early learning hubs, school districts, post-secondary institutions, and community based organizations to implement the strategies in the statewide plan. Grantees must demonstrate a partnership between a community based organization and an institution to qualify for funding. This legislation takes a critical leap forward for black youth. We urge you to support this bill, and the investments called out in the reports to the legislature, to improve outcomes for black students.

We urge a yes vote on HB 2016.

From the desk of
Representative Tina Kotek