

February 25, 2015

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Finance and Revenue Committee,

We know that every student needs ongoing opportunities to learn and practice the essential skills required to find success in school and life. Access to Afterschool and Summer programs are one of the most cost-efficient ways to provide students with hands-on, real-world learning experiences. Each day children spend 60% of their waking hours out of school, and low-income students without access to expanded learning opportunities often fall behind their middle class peers. Research shows that two thirds of this achievement gap can be traced back to lack of access to summer learning opportunities during formative elementary years.

As the statewide afterschool network, OregonASK has worked for the last 10 years to develop ways to support financially sustainable out of school time programs and build collaborative partnerships. We continue to work to build a creative, diversified funding model that can support expanded learning opportunities across the state on a systematic level.

Sincerely,



Beth Unverzagt
Executive Director, OregonASK Expanded Learning Partnership

