

Co-chairs Roblan, Smith Warner and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on future education policy in Oregon. As you plan ways to improve student success, please consider the following recommendations:

1) Support normal biological brain development from pregnancy through 7 years of age

Pregnancy-1 Normal unfolding of the pre-frontal cortex

1-4 Learning through imaginative play

4-7 Growing motor and verbal skills

2) Use International Baccalaureate assessments, emphasizing language, arts and humanities

Internationally accepted assessments

50 years of experience

Program already exists

3) Address wealth concentration, algorithmic governance in education and general economy

Income disparity

Data analytics

Standardized testing

Education technology

Digital privacy

Social impact bonds

Overall, any increase of attention on the human student instead of their data will improve the situation. As we transition away from outcome/competency/behavior-based educational model, improvements in graduation, drop out, absenteeism and behavior will result.

Please reply if you would like more information or research supporting these recommendations. Thanks again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ross Swartzendruber

Parent of 3 children

President, Straub Music Boosters 2015-present

Director, The Music Lessons Project 2018-present

Director, Bethel College Board 2015-present