

Testimony in support of HB 2587

By Betsy Salter, Portland Public Schools Parent

I am writing in support of HB 2587 to modify state educational goals to take into consideration students' aspirations, to provide students with well-rounded education and to provide students with sufficient instructional time to meet students' educational goals. As a parent, these are the educational goals I want my child's schools to provide.

I was very frustrated by the arbitrary goals of 40-40-20 set by the legislature back in 2011 - it made our children seem like they were being tracked and our schools were assembly production lines. I never can remember what the 40-40-20 goals are they were so meaningless to me.

If Oregon wants to improve its high school graduation rates, we need to provide our children with schools that offer a well rounded curriculum that includes world languages, art, music, dance, field trips, sports, CTE, science, social studies...Oregon public schools need to hire certified educators and provide class sizes that allow teachers to get to know each individual student to ensure students are excelling or succeeding and not falling behind.

Every child has unique interests, talents and learning styles. Our public schools need to offer a variety of subjects and teaching methods to engage every child enough to want to stay in school and graduate.

We need to invest in Oregon public schools in order to create the schools our children deserve. Please support HB 2587 and make sure we raise the revenue necessary to not only avoid making any cuts to our public schools, but actually increase funding to fulfill the Quality Education Model.

Thanks for your consideration.

Betsy Salter  
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