



Our mission is to ensure that all children, regardless of their background, graduate from high school prepared for, and with access to, college or career training.

April 5, 2017

Re: Please vote YES on [House Bill 3191](#)

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

We support HB 3191 because increasing access to high-quality summer learning programs, especially for English Learners and children navigating poverty, will be critical in closing the achievement and opportunity gap in Oregon.

High-quality summer learning programs can:

- Help students maintain—and catch up—on essential academic skills;
- Support students through critical transitions; and
- Keep students on track toward high school graduation, and college and career readiness.

There’s decades of research that explores how summer learning loss has lasting consequences:

- “Most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months. Low-income students also lose more than two months in reading achievement, despite the fact that their middle-class peers make slight gains” (Cooper, University of Missouri, 1996).
- “More than half of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college” (Alexander et al, Johns Hopkins University, 2007).

Summer learning loss compounds over time. By the end of elementary school, low-income students may be as many as three grade levels behind their higher-income peers—and this gradually gets worse going up through high school.

2015-16 Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates (Oregon Department of Education):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economically Disadvantaged—68.0% • Not Economically Disadvantaged—83.8% 	There’s a 15.8-point percentage gap.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Learners—52.9% • Non-English Learners—75.8% 	There’s a 22.9-point percentage gap.

We know that Oregon can do better, and that’s why we support this bill. We must do more to end summer learning loss so that students, especially English learners and students navigating poverty, graduate on time prepared for college, work and life.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Parasa Chanramy

Policy & Advocacy Manager