

May 16, 2017

Dear Representative Doherty,

I am writing in support of SB 1002. My daughter attends a school in SW Portland within the Portland Public School District. My 11 year old daughter was diagnosed with ADD and dyslexia in first grade. Due to her dyslexia she needed, and still requires, private tutoring for a minimum of 2 days a week using the Orton Gillingham program, the only proven program for helping dyslexics learn to read, write and spell. Due to her ADD and need to work so much harder at school, she is often very tired by the end of her day. Her elementary school allowed us to schedule tutoring on school grounds immediately after school to try to maximize her attention and energy. This was the best option for our dual working household and I'm not sure we could have gotten the tutoring otherwise. It was still very difficult for her and often time led to meltdowns due to fatigue and added demands. For the last two years we have been tutoring before school in the school library as we realized my daughter is a morning person and far more available for learning at 7:30 a.m. Tutoring at 5 or 6 p.m. is not going to work for any child who is already exhausted from a full day of concentration at school.

All of this has been great for the last 5 years. However, we are transitioning to middle school next year, which starts even later in the morning. This would allow for an even better time for my daughter and her tutor to meet and get some work done before school. Unfortunately I am now being told by her middle school admin team that they no longer allow private tutors on school property either before or after school.

This inability to utilize school facilities before or after school is a big problem for us and does not allow my daughter to easily access what is required for her to learn and succeed in school. We are providing the tutoring and method of learning she requires due to her diagnosis. Unfortunately the school system does not offer the teaching methods that work for her. This is not an easy financial feat for us. By being allowed to utilize school space for tutoring and knowing that my daughter would be receiving her tutoring in a safe environment two mornings a week would eliminate extra worry and stress for our entire household not to mention allowing her a regular schedule and calmer start to her day.

Please support SB 1002 so children everywhere with dyslexia can get the tutoring they need at a time of day when they are still available to learn. This would also allow parents to get the most out of the significant amount of funds we are required to pay to get our children the education they need to succeed. Thank you for your time.

Christina and Christopher Bongen
Portland Public School Parent