



Don Grotting
Superintendent of Schools
16550 SW Merlo Road
Beaverton, OR 97003
503-356-4401



May 22, 2017

Dear Education Ways and Means Committee:

As a member of the Governor's Council on Educator Advancement, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 182, and the potential impact the resources, strategies, and recommendations would provide to truly improve student achievement and opportunities for **ALL** students in Oregon. Your support and passage of this bill would provide a **statewide lift** to serve educators and students in rural, urban, and metropolitan Oregon.

I have worked as a superintendent, in Powers, Nyssa, David Douglas, and now Beaverton for a total of 20 years. It is absolutely clear to me, and evidenced by the data and work accomplished in the above districts, the most significant variable to improving outcomes and opportunities for children Pre-K through high school is **to have an effective teacher in every classroom and capable administrator leading every building**. By empowering teacher voice and providing leadership opportunities, we can significantly improve teacher longevity, diversity, and build leadership capacity in every school in Oregon. Teacher leadership is the largest untapped potential in our education system today.

In order to provide effective teachers and administrators to all Oregon students, mentoring for our new teachers and administrators by qualified mentors has to be a priority in addition to **embedded** and **regionalized** ongoing quality professional development. Students, teachers, and administrators deserve the same quality instruction, professional development and leadership opportunities whether you live in Eastern Oregon, the Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon Central Oregon, the South Coast, or the metro area. Currently this is not happening. Resources are often allocated on whether a district has the ability to write grants or the capacity because of size to provide these needed opportunities. This is called equity, and it is not currently being achieved in our current system.

Your support will propel an **equity focused** approach to provide a seamless system that serves all children throughout Oregon by empowering teacher voice and leadership by embedding professional learning and teacher leadership opportunities. Now is the time to have a true sense of urgency to improve outcomes for Oregon students. Our committee has worked diligently over the past ten months to provide you with informed and researched recommendations to go from paper to practice. Please support our efforts and make a positive difference for the children of Oregon.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to call on something else, a significant and sustainable increase in school funding. When combined with a State School Fund appropriation in excess of \$8.4 billion, SB 182 can and will make a difference for kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Don Grotting'.

Don Grotting

District Goal: WE Empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.