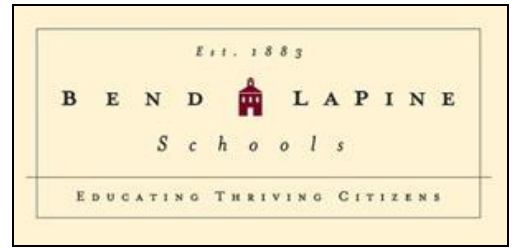


TEACHING AND LEARNING SUPPORT CENTER

Education Center

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May 22, 2017

Dear Senator Rod Monroe and Representative Smith-Warner, Co-Chairs for the Education Ways and Means Subcommittee,

As the Chair of the Governor's Council on Educator Advancement, the Mentor Program Coordinator for four districts in Central Oregon, and the Professional Advancement and Support Coordinator for Bend-La Pine Schools, I work daily with novice and veteran teachers to support them as they align their professional learning with their district's vision and support them as they meaningfully transfer their learning into the classroom.

The Governor's Council on Educator Advancement was asked to coordinate comprehensive support to deliver excellence in teaching and learning, streamline resources, and elevate the educator profession while leveraging and advancing teacher and school leadership. The Council decided that it was imperative to have strong teacher voice at the table, so they drew on the expertise that the teachers have in teaching and learning to impact the recommendations brought forth in SB 182. This shared expertise will illuminate positive outcomes for educational policy and the students for whom these policies are designed.

Over the next several years, three things that will likely change for teaching and learning as a result of SB 182 are:

1. All novice teachers will receive mentoring and induction for their first 2 years thus increasing teacher effectiveness, strengthening instruction and embedding reflection in their practice.
2. Teacher voice and leadership will be an essential component in defining regional and district level professional learning needs, as well as shaping educational policy.
3. The alignment of PK-college will support a higher quality educator workforce who enters the field more knowledgeable and prepared to teach our students. This, in turn, supports all of our educators as we recruit and retain the best teachers who are accomplished and think deeply about the craft of teaching.

Nobody knows teaching like teachers. SB 182 will provide the leadership opportunities for teachers to be an integral part of the planning, decision-making process, training and implementation of meaningful, job-embedded professional learning that provides opportunities for success for all learners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele L. Oakes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Michele Oakes
Chair, Governor's Council on Educator Advancement
Mentor Program Coordinator