

Honorable Arnie Roblan, Chair  
Senate Education Committee

February 9, 2017

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

When Chalkboard Project almost 15 years ago, we engaged in vast and deep efforts to gather public opinion about the best path forward for improving education outcomes for our students. With the help of DHM Research, we learned that the highest priority for Oregonians was making sure our students graduate college and career ready. Additionally, 80% of respondents said that active parental and community involvement were essential to student success.

Flash forward to today and, though we've made some progress, those priorities remain. Chalkboard appreciates the Education Innovation Officer's engagement with families and communities across Oregon to hear from them ideas about what we can do to better help their children succeed.

Senate Bill 183 reflects a commitment to those children, their families and communities to invest in innovative practices and systems of support that will help to ensure students graduate on-time and with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and in their careers.

Chalkboard Project is particularly pleased that SB 183 establishes an Early Indicator and Intervention System. In 2015, on the heels of a study we conducted with the Data Quality Campaign, we reached out to ODE with recommendations for improving high school completion rates. One of those recommendations was to create a real-time statewide early indicator system to support schools and districts. Such a system would use data to monitor students on several key indicators of success and signal opportunities for intervention. An ideal system would monitor a student's strengths as well as risk factors. The idea is to know when and how to provide extra supports to students *before* problems arise.

Other pioneering states are already using statewide early indicator systems as are several Oregon school districts. It's time we establish a statewide system in Oregon.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that successful implementation of an early indicator system could not be accomplished without our educators' capacity to use the system to its full potential. This presents an opportunity to strengthen the data culture in our schools and districts by ensuring educators and school personnel have the training and supports they need to accurately collect, clean, analyze, and report data and to interpret data findings.

Chalkboard has built its reputation on seeking out, using, and piloting evidence-based practices. The Chief Education Office's dedication to evidence and best practices from the field is apparent in Senate Bill 183. Directing ODE to develop an early indicator and intervention system is critical to helping students complete high school on time. I urge your support of SB 183.

Sincerely,

Sue Hildick, President  
Chalkboard Project

