

Joint Committee on Student Success

Oregon must do more to ensure that the more than 550,000 children enrolled in our schools are receiving a first-class education. Oregon's K-12 students spend less time in school than students in most other states. Our graduation rates are some of the lowest in the nation. Resources to support our schools and teachers are insufficient and unstable. These factors make it difficult for our students to improve and achieve ongoing success.

Providing students with the thriving school system they need to achieve success will take a focused and sustained effort. To catalyze that effort, we are appointing the Joint Committee on Student Success. This committee will explore what is and is not working for Oregon's students, spending time learning about the best practices employed in our most successful schools and understanding the gaps that are limiting student success in other schools. Legislators will spend time traveling across the state listening to parents, students, teachers, and other education professionals about what our students need.

The goal for this committee will be to create a plan that will improve educational outcomes for students across the state. This cannot be done simply with new reform proposals. It must include a budget proposal that is sufficient to achieve success, be sustainable in its commitment to our students, and accountable toward achieving the plans goals.

This will be a complex discussion. The political and policy debate about how to make sure all our students have the opportunity for success has been heated, with elected leaders, advocates, and community leaders grouped into polarized camps. We know this is going to be challenging, and we also believe that we must find a path forward that guarantees every student in Oregon has access to a great education.

The committee's work will be based on several foundational principles:

- *The early childhood experience is critical to all future outcomes. Every child in Oregon should have the support needed to be ready to learn when they enter Kindergarten.*
- *Students need to be in school to learn. Oregon instructional days and hours, as well as student attendance, must be on par with those of high-achieving schools around the country.*
- *The pathway to career success starts with high school graduation. Every Oregon school should provide the support needed for students to graduate and transition toward careers or further education.*
- *Students, parents and taxpayers deserve an accountable and transparent school system that is focused on student success at every level.*
- *Achieving these goals will only be possible with stable, sufficient, and accountable resources.*

We encourage students and parents, educators and administrators, concerned community members and business leaders to engage with the committee. These discussions will not be easy. It is our expectation that those who engage in this process will come together to put Oregon's students first.

Timeline

- The Joint Committee will meet monthly January 2018 through January 2019
- Field hearings will be held throughout the state during spring and summer 2018
- The Joint Committee will complete its work during the 2019 session

Staff

- LPRO Primary Staff
- LRO and LFO, as needed
- Additional support provided by executive branch agencies