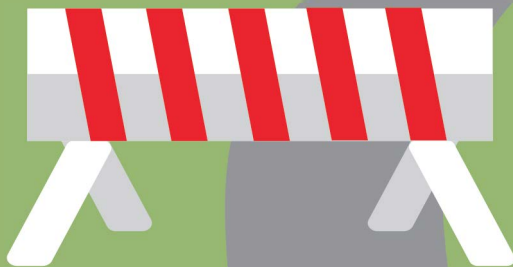


Every Child Deserves The Opportunity **TO THRIVE**

Oregon has the third lowest graduation rate in the country at 78.7%. Communities of color face greater disparities where only 74.6% of Latino children, 68% of Black children, and 65.3% of Native American children graduate on time.



High-quality early education is crucial to young children's future success. **Yet, in Oregon, 75% of low-income children, including many children of color, lack access to high-quality early learning programs.**



Between birth and five years old, 90% of brain development occurs. In this important time, young children learn how to communicate, how to form relationships, and develop early reading and writing skills.





Vote YES on HB 2897

Early Childhood Equity Fund

It is crucial that we invest in early years to prepare kids for future success. We don't accept an education system that produces the 3rd lowest graduation rate in the country. Or, one where 80% of low-income children are not reading proficiently by third grade. Oregon is becoming increasingly diverse, yet many children of color lack access to early learning opportunities that meet their cultural and linguistic needs. Investing in the Early Childhood Equity Fund is a step toward ensuring all students have access to a high quality early learning experience.

By investing in equity we can close the opportunity gap for children of color

The Early Learning Division will administer the Early Childhood Equity Fund to support culturally specific early learning, early childhood and parent support programs across the state. To be eligible a program must be culturally specific and have a proven track record of providing effective outreach, support, and resources to underserved children and their families. The Division will also provide bi-annual evaluations to the legislature to track alignment with positive childhood and family indicators.

To prepare children of color for success in kindergarten, many community based organizations have stepped up to develop culturally specific early childhood and parent engagement programs. These programs are designed by and for the community they serve. Kids are taught to communicate, form relationships, and build early reading and writing skills with an approach that is grounded in their home language and unique cultural experiences.

Unfortunately, the state does not currently invest in these proven programs. The Equity Fund is a step toward expanding access statewide and transforming Oregon's system to make it more inclusive and equitable. Families of color deserve the option of a culturally specific experience that might make the difference for their child's future success. The Early Childhood Equity Fund is supported by a diverse set of community partners committed to ensuring every child in Oregon has the opportunity to thrive.



For more information contact:

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¹ In 2014, (most recently available birth data) 36.5% of babies born in Oregon were children of color. In five Oregon counties— Marion, Jefferson, Morrow, Hood River, and Malheur— a majority of the under-five population are children of color. Additionally, Multnomah, Umatilla, and Washington County, are projected to see their under-five populations shift to majority children of color in the near future.

² Infographic iconography provided by Freepik and Dimitry Miroljubov