



We are a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.

March 4, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the House Education Committee,

On behalf of Stand for Children, I am writing to urge your support of HB 2440 – it's a bill that would create a statewide Latino/a/x Student Success plan that would span from early learning through higher education.

Across Oregon, there are 136,186 Latino/a/x students (over 23% of our K-12 student population).

There's some great work happening in Woodburn and in North Clackamas – but it is only happening in pockets. They are, what we would call, islands of success.

Yet, pervasive achievement and opportunity gaps still persist.

- Reading by third grade (28% are proficient in reading (2017-18 data, ODE)
- Absenteeism (23% are chronically absent (2017-18 data, ODE)
- Ninth grade on track (79% are on-track (2017-18 data, ODE)
- Statewide graduation rate (75% graduated on time, 2017-18 data, ODE)

We'd like to see the state focus on how our broader system supports Latino/a/x students in Oregon.

HB 2440 would help create that much needed focus so that Oregon is helping change these odds for Latino/a/x students.

Our Latino/a/x students need equitable supports that are culturally responsive, they need educators that are reflective of their backgrounds and breadth of experience, and they need access. HB 2440 will help Oregon continue to build on the collective work that we need to do in order to better support our Latino/a/x students.

Please pass HB 2440 to create the Latino/a/x Student Success Plan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Parasa Chanramy". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Parasa Chanramy
Policy & Implementation Director