

Good Morning Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the committee:

For the record my name is Matt Jumago. I'm a teacher and academic coach in the Colton School District and with OEA. I'm here today to advocate for collaboration, between teachers, between school districts, and between philanthropic organizations and the state.

The challenges facing our students are vast, but some solutions are only a classroom away. Over the last four years, Colton School District has learned to find these solutions through partnerships with ODE, Chalkboard Project, and dozens of other districts through the School District Collaboration Fund, and the results are exciting.

Improvement coaching and systems thinking have demonstrated better and more sustainable results when teachers are empowered and leaders work collaboratively, and when data and information about the experiences of students, families, and teachers are routinely used to understand system barriers.

Come to our Middle school and I'll show you math classes where we're leveraging teacher-student relationships to encourage struggling learners to attend early morning study halls. In the words of Zaretta Hammond, relationships allow us to take a stance of Active Demandingness - trust allows for risk - and this is true for students as well as educators.

We're Colton School District, we're the smallest public school system in Clackamas County, and by trying things differently we're seeing results! On Tuesday at the Middle School, I heard from two teachers, separately, about the amazing improvements they've seen since winter break with one of the focal students we're trying to help with the math work I mentioned. He's gone from missing days of school, and missing piles of assignments, to turning things in early and coaching his friends along the way. It started with a teacher looking at her data, and led to a small team trying things differently, and now it looks like a student whose life has changed.

In our school district, it's no longer enough to wait for test scores to know how a class is performing. We're collecting data on instruction and implementation of strategies, too. Our students' success is too important for us to wait for a big test to tell us how we're doing. Like a chef who tastes as they cook, we are regularly measuring what is working to improve student learning.

On behalf of Colton educators, we're grateful for the state's contributions so far, and we recognize the need for collaboration to continue so that our students know that it's not just any one teacher, but that the whole school, the whole district, the whole state has got their backs. Please Support the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Educator Advancement Council so school districts like ours can continue this great work.

Thank you,  
Matt Jumago