

From: nina.winegar-thurston
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please Invest in our Schools (HB 2019)
Date: Monday, April 8, 2019 8:21:39 PM

Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success:

I am writing to ask that you invest in the future of our schools and students. Our children need the best we can offer and will not receive an adequate education if the budget is reduced as currently proposed. In past budget reductions, I taught a 4th and 5th grade blended classroom with 36 students. I had 39 students when we switched for math. Despite my best efforts, I was not able to teach, support, assist and differentiate for that many children. We did not fit comfortably in the room, and some students sat on the floor. Many students at my school live in poverty and come from traumatic backgrounds that cause them to exhibit behaviors that can disrupt or stop the learning in the room, and can make other students unsafe. Smaller class sizes allow teachers more time to emotionally support these students and keep the classroom a safe place for everyone.

I urge you to insist that the legislature accept your proposal and help fund our schools. Our children depend on us, and the future of Oregon depends on them.

Thank you,
Nina Thurston

Nina Thurston
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