

**From:** [Jen Fife-Adams](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [State Senator Mark Hass](#); [Rep Schouten](#); [david\\_williams@beaverton.k12.or.us](mailto:david_williams@beaverton.k12.or.us); [Steve Fife-Adams](#); [Jen Fife-Adams](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2019  
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To the Joint Committee on Student Success:

I'm writing to urge you to fully invest in Oregon's educational bodies. Your comprehensive proposal to adequately fund public education through investment and a change in taxation is fully appreciated in my household!

We moved to Oregon from Michigan in the late summer of 2009, just in time for my elder to start kindergarten in the Beaverton School District. Right away, my kiddo was identified by the teacher as gifted, was tested, and then throughout the year, received extra support from that teacher and from the district. I recall that Esmé worked on a special project focused on Chinese culture during the celebrations of Chinese New Year: with the support of their teacher, they wrote a report, created an outfit and did a presentation to the class before the whole class celebrated the New Year with a parade and a feast. For a half day kindergartener in public school, this was pretty impressive, and I was impressed with the support given.

Fast forward to fall of 2012 when my younger child started kindergarten. It was the last time Beaverton had to manage a huge budget cut, and we could see the difference immediately. The teacher for Harper's class had never taught kindergarten before (had only taught the middle grades) and had little ability to manage this much younger age group. One day early in the year I came in to volunteer and walked into chaos: the kids were running around screaming, one child had had an accident in the middle of the classroom, and the teacher was in the corner of the room crying. Eventually, a new teacher was brought in, but years later, teachers would talk about how far behind in reading and math that class still remained. The amount of follow-up needed to help these kids catch up was tremendous and still goes on.

As you can see, adequate educational funding makes an incredible difference in outcomes. As our state tries to improve graduation rates, lengthen the school year, and endeavors to prepare its youth for the jobs and careers that we can't even imagine, we need to invest in our kids to a degree that we haven't for years. I would like all children to get the amount of support and attention that my elder received in kindergarten.

Funding for education is an investment in our future that is so critical that I hope you will refuse to adjourn without it being accomplished to the degree that we need it to be. Our future depends on it.

Thanks for reading,

Jen Fife-Adams  
9188 SW Platinum Place, Beaverton, 97007  
Sexton Mountain NAC, Co-Chair  
Executive Director for Planting Seeds, a community food support organization  
Read about Planting Seeds [here!](#)  
[www.plantingseedscommunity.org](http://www.plantingseedscommunity.org)

