

We've been underfunding our schools and shortchanging our students for decades. The time to act is now, and this is a landmark opportunity to do so. HB 2019 would give our students the resources they need and the high quality education they deserve. The Student Success Act would create fairness in our tax system for the benefit of Oregon students. It prioritizes protecting small businesses, while also providing needed revenue for our schools and students. With measures to ensure funds are being spent wisely, HB 2019 is an accountable way to finally provide critical revenue for Oregon schools. This transformational investment in our schools will mean lower class sizes, increased graduation rates, expanded CTE programs and safer schools through more social-emotional learning. Please vote Yes for The Student Success Act (HB 2019).

My name is Mary Janowski and I live in Beaverton, OR. I have children who attend the Beaverton public schools, a 4th grader at Hiteon Elementary and an 8th grader at Conestoga Middle school. I have been an active volunteer in the BSD since my oldest child started kindergarten. I have volunteered in the classroom, on the PTC board, I volunteer with AVID, and I have been the chair of various events at the elementary school.

In the 8 years since my oldest child started public school, I have seen significant changes in the school and not for the better. The class sizes have ballooned. Services to the neediest kids have waned. We have lost librarians, specialists, intervention resources. I have seen the increase in behavioral issues in the classrooms as a result of the increase in class size as well as the effect of a lack of resources for kids with special emotional and learning needs. I have also spent a significant amount of my volunteer time specifically helping kids with math, and sadly this is becoming an even bigger issue. More & more kids are falling behind in math. The schools do not have the resources to help them, and they are becoming hopelessly lost in the system as they are pushed along to the next level of math when they are clearly not ready. These kids not only act out due to frustration, they believe that they are incapable of learning and the cycle just perpetuates.

The Oregon state budget must include a significant increase to K-12 funding, and not simply enough to cover PERS. We must increase the budget enough to get class sizes back to manageable levels (less than 20 kids/classroom in elementary and less than 25 in middle and high schools). We must bring back true librarians, and provide more specialists, more resource teachers and more resources for the schools.

Our children deserve a proper education, one that provides academic and emotional support. We owe it to our teachers and students to have the time and resources for solid, real connection, which is the foundation for all learning. Providing the foundation that our students need will allow them to pursue their dreams and become active, engaged, and gainful participants in our community. Our communities will suffer if our children do not get the education they deserve and need.