



TO: Joint Committee on Student Success  
FROM: John Esa, Board President, Redmond Proficiency Academy  
RE: HB 2019, Student Success Act  
DATE: April 11, 2019

Co-chairs Roblan and Smith-Warner, and members of the Committee,

My name is John Esa, I'm the Board President for the Redmond Proficiency Academy, a public charter school in central Oregon. I want to thank this committee for the opportunity to come and present testimony. My school, like many other public schools around our state, serves students who are often under-served in our community.

I appreciate this legislative body for its work to make a historic investment in Oregon's public schools. I don't like to think about the education of our young people as a polarizing opportunity. So I'm profoundly grateful any time additional funding and support for our future is on the table and all stakeholders have a seat to be a part of conversation regarding who gets to benefit from our collective progress.

AND I do believe the Joint Committee on Student Success is making great progress for the collective of Oregon public school students.

I'm here today to because I am compelled to highlight just how much every school needs as much support as possible. I'm here because every student needs as much support as possible, be they within a district run school or a public charter school.

I grew up thriving in a traditional public school, I benefited from reduced price school lunches and enjoyed the Oregon school system from pre-K thru the University of Oregon. Now, as a charter school board member, I have the great honor to serve students from similar socioeconomic backgrounds as me and I can tell you that what I see are public charter schools that do an amazing job at serving those students who weren't so inclined to attend a more traditional comprehensive high school.

We definitely need support for our traditional public schools to ensure the success of students, AND we absolutely need support for our public charter schools as a supplement to be sure we're reaching out to meet every student where they need us to.

What increased support to our community via the Redmond Proficiency Academy would mean is beyond description. But, tangibly, it would mean an ability to:

- Increase the number of counselors on staff to better provide mental health services;
- Reduction in class sizes;
- Increase the number of graduation coaches to provide guidance and support for all students - but particularly traditionally under-served populations - to graduate on-time;
- Enhanced partnerships with community, including Latino Community Association;
- Expansion of Business and Marketing CTE program;
- Development of technical theatre CTE program (includes event production, set construction, sound and light engineering).

Our school community appreciates the work that you all are doing and we look forward to being a partner in the work of the Student Success Act.