



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

TO: Joint Committee on Student Success

FROM: Jonathon C. Bullock, D.Ed., Board Chair, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools ([ORC3S](#)), Executive Director, Redmond Proficiency Academy ([RPA](#))

RE: Student Success Act, HB 2019

DATE: April 11, 2019

Co-chairs Roblan & Smith Warner, members of the committee:

I want to thank you for your service to Oregon and your tireless efforts to ensure Oregon's children have the support they need to achieve success and to help our great state thrive. We have known each other a long time; in fact, you and I first met when I was beginning my career as an educator and coach in Salem in 1994, and I have long appreciated the conversations we shared about your life in politics and about helping our youth learn and grow.

I am writing today in my capacity as the Board Chair for the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools. I want to thank you and your colleagues in the legislature for working to raise close to \$2 billion in new revenue for schools during this legislative session. This is a historic, and much needed, investment in public education and is critical for the future of our state.

This evening, when the Joint Committee for Student Success holds its first public hearing, it is my hope that members of the JCSS and all members of our legislature will agree that all of Oregon's public school students deserve access to these new funds. We are encouraged to see that the new amendments do not exclude our public charter school students, however, the bill language still does not clearly delineate how our state's public charter schools will engage in the grant planning, application, and oversight process under the School Improvement Account.

As you know, the details are what matter when making policy. The Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools would like to see language included in the bill that provides assurances that public charter schools are eligible for funds and clarifies how they engage in the grant application process for the School Improvement Account. Our great state has shown through the Measure 98/High School Success grant, which provided for public charter schools to access grant money directly through the Oregon Department of Education, that all of Oregon's students - including those who choose to enroll in a public charter school - can benefit from targeted allocations tied to specific and measurable goals.

Adopting language similar to that found in the Measure 98/High School Success grants would clarify and strengthen the role of public charter schools in supporting students to achieve success through the School Improvement Account.

Ultimately, this is a matter of equity, and it is Oregon's children who will pay the price if this legislation is not clear on its intent to include public charter schools. Public charter schools in

Oregon offer students and families innovative educational options. Oregon's public charter schools work diligently to increase student achievement and reduce academic disparities for economically disadvantaged students, students from racial or ethnic groups that have historically experienced academic disparities, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners. The Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools remains committed to ensuring all Oregon students have access to high-quality schools throughout the state.

With sincere thanks for your public service and commitment to our children,

Jon