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April 8, 2019

First of all, on behalf of the students, faculty and staff throughout the school districts of Douglas County, we would like to thank you for the hard work not just in our districts, but throughout the state. Oregon’s emphasis on public education will have a major impact on our youth for years to come.

We are extremely grateful for the School Improvement Fund. Our K-12 school districts will greatly benefit from this, providing smaller classes, student health and safety, more learning time, and creating diverse opportunities for educators to teach their curriculum to students. **Currently, the SIF does not include education service districts.** As you know, ESDs play a huge role in providing services and programs to help better the public education experience, especially in rural areas. **Including education service districts in the School Improvement Fund would ensure services to special needs children.**

From North Douglas to Glendale, Douglas ESD nearly serves 14,000 K-12 students in 13 school districts in Douglas County, as well as 1,500 pre-K students with disabilities throughout Southern Oregon. We work tirelessly to provide opportunities and open doors for students. In order to provide these opportunities, Douglas ESD partners with local non-profit organizations and programs. Our services range from early childhood special education, to career and technical education support. Besides helping better public education, we provide help for our school districts, providing them with print services, IT and network support, attendance support, a complex needs classroom, consulting teachers, staff development, and communications and media support. We will use the Local Service Plan to expand programs that our superintendents decided were high priorities throughout the districts. We will be able to design how the funds are used and obtain indispensable services that we would otherwise not be able to obtain.

Douglas ESD would receive \$350,000 from the \$1 billion School Improvement Fund. This portion would have a major, positive impact on the school districts we service. The SIF would allow Douglas County to expand **behavioral intervention services.** Although the Ford Family Foundation has financially supported our current mental health programs, they do not provide sustainable funding. The funding would also expand our **nursing services.** In Douglas County, generational poverty and lack of access to healthy foods, combined with having Oregon’s highest rate of children in foster care, mean that Douglas County children are some of the least healthy in the state. With additional resources, we will be able to provide more school nurses to districts that now share nurses at a ratio of 1 to 7,000. The SIF would help us strengthen our plans help create a **South County Career and Technician Education and workforce training center.** With additional funding, we would be able to complete the plans and help grow the economy in Douglas County.

**Please add ESDs to the School Improvement Fund distribution.** Not only will it have an impact on Douglas County students, but students across the state of Oregon. Again, the hard work that you have already done to better education in the state is greatly appreciated. Please, don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Patrick Lee Superintendent Camas Valley	David Hanson Superintendent Glendale	Mike Narkiewicz Superintendent Glide	Tim Porter Superintendent South Umpqua	John Lahley Superintendent North Douglas
Terry Prestianni Superintendent Sutherlin	Patty Lovemark Superintendent Oakland	Kevin Miller Superintendent Winston-Dillard	Dave Gianotti Superintendent Riddle	Steve Woods Superintendent Days Creek
Lee Paterson Superintendent Roseburg	Andy Boe Superintendent Elkton	Brian Berry Superintendent Yoncalla	Michael Lasher Superintendent Douglas ESD	Deb Thatcher President UCC