

**From:** [jon.gottshall](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [david williams](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 2019  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:28:38 PM

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Dear Legislators--I am writing to urge you to support increased funding for our K-12 education system.

I've been a teacher in the Beaverton School District for 18 years. In many of those years, we've had to endure cutbacks, which has meant larger class sizes, fewer materials to use with students (unless I care to buy them myself), and when behavioral issues pop up due to overcrowded classrooms, our counselors are less able to help the students because *their* caseloads are overburdened.

We worry (correctly) about the achievement gap, which is exacerbated but such conditions. Positive relationships are critical for children of poverty and children of color to believe in, and reach their full potential. Crowded classrooms make those relationships more difficult to establish.

Next year, Beaverton is looking at possibly laying off 200 teachers. Memories of massive layoffs in 2012 are still fresh in my memory, when classrooms were so crowded students had to sit on counters and tables. We had over fifty 7th grade students on one math class! I had forty-three students in my history class, and my recall of that year is one of noise and distractions. That year, our students, our children, were not well served by our public education system, and it looks like it may happen again.

With adequate funding, teachers have the time (and energy) to build positive relationships with students, relationships that can make a dramatic difference in their--and *our*--future. While it may take more money on the front side to fully fund schools, in the long run we will save much more, as our students grow into productive adults, rather than have them economically struggle and possibly become a public burden. This is not conjecture, we know this to be true.

So, in closing, I urge you to give public education it's due. Let's stop promising big, but delivering small. Please support increased funding for our children, who are our future.

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