

Committee members,

Please fully fund our schools. We are way behind in our public school funding, and it's time we catch up.

This school year in Parkrose School District we are taking five furlough/budget reduction days. These days are days our students don't learn and our staff don't get paid, so that we may cover the 1.6 million dollar shortfall to our budget from the last biennium.

This is on top of the over 30 furlough days our district, students and staff have had to take over last decade.

We are down over 20 percent on staff and and 20 percent on budget from pre-2008 recession levels.

At the Governor's budget proposal Parkrose School district will be down almost 4 million dollars in the upcoming biennium. It looks very likely that this year we will need to cut teaching and support positions and the following year take even more furlough days.

This is unacceptable.

I am angry at the current state of our public schools and have anxiety over what will happen if the legislature does not take action this session to create stable, adequate funding for schools. I have spoken to Worksystems employees who say that IT companies find few good applicants from Oregon graduates. This is due to years of systemic, inadequate education from our public schools.

I personally worry that I am shortchanging my daughter to have her in public school when she has tested for TAG (talented and gifted) programs, but her school does not have the resources to provide these programs. However, I also know that pulling my daughter from school will mean even less money for a local school, so we are sticking it out.

With money to repair the harm that has been done, and invest in Parkrose schools, we can bring back programs that have been cut including elementary PE, increase social-emotional supports, and add back much needed staff that have been cut.

Please vote Yes for HB 3427 the Student Success Act. Please fund our schools.

Annette Stanhope
Parkrose resident and parent of one elementary student

Parkrose Neighborhood Association Chair

Prescott Family Community Association Treasurer