

Committee members,

Please fund our schools. The time to act is now.

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 the last decade.

We are down over 20 percent on staff 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 genuinely frightened of what will happen to Oregon schools if the legislature does not take action this session to create stable, adequate funding for schools.

The Student Success Act would create fairness in our tax system for the benefit of Oregon students. It prioritizes protecting small businesses, while also providing needed revenue for our schools and students.

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

Please vote Yes for HB 3427 the Student Success Act. Please fund our schools. Our students and our community deserve better.

Harmony Stillwell  
Parkrose resident and parent of an elementary student