

Dear committee members:

It is time to end the defunding of public education in Oregon. It is unconscionable that we do not properly support the children of this state, the schools where they should be learning, or the teachers that struggle to provide them with the tools they need to succeed.

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 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.

With money to repair the harm that has been done, and invest in Parkrose schools, we will increase bring back programs that have been cut including elementary PE, increase 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.

Jerold Fernee  
10825 NE Skidmore St  
Portland, OR 97220