

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success,

I have been blessed to be a K-5 PE teacher in the Beaverton School District for 19 years. My first 12 years were in a Title I school until I was transferred due to budget cuts in 2012 with hundreds of other Beaverton teachers (in addition to the hundreds of layoffs). PE programs were reduced across the district. Roughly half the schools had only a half-time certified high quality PE teacher who was split between two schools. Not only did students have to adjust to higher class sizes in the 30s, but also had less access to a well-balanced education with reduced or eliminated PE, music, art, and library classes. For some students, those are "carrots" that get them out the door in the morning.

Oregon wants to be known for offering high-quality public education without funding it. We can do better. The students deserve better. The benefits of a high-quality education are vast for students, communities, businesses, and Oregon as a whole. There is no better investment.

Our overall goal in our P.E. programs is to encourage students to **enjoy physical activity**, **build confidence**, and **develop habits** that will keep them healthy throughout their lives. In other words, we focus on developing their Physical Literacy.

Please include these comments in the official record for HB 3427.

Physical literacy is the ability to move with competence and confidence in a **wide variety** of physical activities in multiple environments that benefit the healthy development of the **whole person**. It is the development of **basic physical skills**, **playing well with others**, and **making good, healthy choices**. By building their physical literacy, they will develop a large toolbox of skills which will give them confidence to try many activities, games, and/or sports. Couple that with knowing how to make good choices about their health, students will live active, healthy lifestyles for years to come.

Research has shown that being **physically** active later in life depends on an individual's ability to feel confident in an activity setting. That confidence most often comes from having learned fundamental movement and sport skills, or **physical literacy**, as a child.

In short, we are developing productive members of society. But we are not the only ones. So are humanities teachers, music teachers, math teachers, K-5 teachers, counselors, and many more.

The work of the Joint Committee on Student Success has been welcome. I support House Bill 3427. I support the additional \$2 billion investment towards education in the next biennium. So do many of my neighbors, fellow community members, co-workers, friends, and family members.

Thanks for your time,

Joel Miller

PE Teacher

Beaverton School District