

Dear JCSS,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 3427. I am a first grade teacher at a Title 1 elementary school and we are seeing dire consequences of the long-term lack of adequate funding for education in Oregon. Our school serves a community in poverty, and schools like ours suffer greatly from the lack of funding in many ways: funding basic science, art, trying to fundraise for field trips, after school clubs, and enrichment opportunities for our students who would not get them otherwise, and trying to meet the basic social and emotional needs of kids so they can engage in learning.

I never imagined that teaching at a school in Oregon I would be told by my administrators in January that they would be unable to buy more paper for the remainder of the year. Or watch how my students with special needs receive less than 30 minutes of additional support each week, when they need so much more. Or remember how well I was able to meet the needs of all my students when I taught in another state when I had just 21 students, rather than 28 like I currently have. With more funding, simply put, teachers are able to do their jobs and meet the needs of their students. Without it, not only are our students negatively impacted, but our entire society. Consider the long term effects of underfunding education. Fewer students will develop the necessary skills they need to be successful as contributing members of our community, more students will have low paying jobs or turn to crime. It is an investment in our state's future to invest in education now.

HB 3427 is just a start to build back world class education systems to ensure our state can contribute to the progress of our country. We need you to show your commitment to our communities and pass HB 3427.

Thank you for your generous consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather Griffin