

I have been a paraeducator for the Beaverton School District for almost 5 years. I have had a unique opportunity to work with students K-12 in both general education and special education settings and classrooms. I have seen teachers and staff use a large portion of their own incomes to provide materials and activities for their students in order for the students to not only do their required work, but to make sure students are engaged. I myself have used some of my income to help support these efforts. I cannot implore you enough to fight for more adequate funding. The consequences and domino effect of lack of funding is drastic. I'm already seeing the consequences of students who give up because they are not getting the support they need. Students doubt themselves when they don't have adequate support. Ultimately, these students are our future and we need to invest. I am already doing my part by taking a position that doesn't even pay \$30,000/year. Read that sentence again, I (as a college graduate with honors and over 8 years experience with working with people/students with disabilities) do not even earn \$30,000 a year to support students as my full time job. I am making sacrifices to do this because the work is essential. I implore you to fight for the needs of our students, staff, and teachers. We are the future and we need your help to exist and thrive.

Cheers,

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