

To Whom It May Concern representing the Joint Committee on Students Success,

As a teacher in Oregon for the past 24 years, I have seen the impacts budget reductions have on our students too many times. The cuts to classroom teachers that increases class size, make it even more difficult to meet the needs of our diverse learners. This is just one of many reasons we need adequate funding at the state level. Having worked in a Title 1 school for the past 15 years, I have seen the impact that cuts in intervention, special education and counseling have had on our student population. Our students struggle to learn and need as much support as possible now, so they can be productive citizens of our community in the future.

Classrooms are in crisis. Escalating behaviors and decreased academic and social support at home and in schools due to cuts, are impacting them daily. Our increasing need for more counseling and mental health support must be addressed to avoid further crisis in our schools statewide. Cutting support staff, outside of the classroom teachers, is just as detrimental to our students. The number of students in need continues to increase and we are already short handed. This crisis is felt on a daily basis.

The growing demands on teachers to teach broader curriculum cannot be maintained without adequate professional development and time to collaborate with peers. Funding is necessary to continue to grow practices and keep pace with future ready students.

Investments in education can make a difference for our kids! I have seen the positive impact of small class sizes and time with students to reach and teach them. Building relationships with students takes time and overcrowded classrooms do not allow for these relationships. Academic support such as Interventions for reading and math and ELL support must remain strongly funded in order to provide our students with the tools they need for the future.

We must make the investments now to provide a future that is brighter for students and teachers in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 3427 and fund our schools appropriately.

Thank you for your time,

Tomi Kluver
Intervention Teacher
Greenway Elementary

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."