

Greetings,

Our school communities need you to find a way to fund the Student Success Act. This act provides hope for our children who desperately need a solid and fully funded education. As an educator and parent, I have seen far too many episodes of disrupted learning and students' needs not being met because the human resources are not available.

In the school in which I work, it is a nearly everyday occurrence to have room clears due to elevated and unsafe behaviors. Just this week a kindergartner was running after peers and staff trying to stab them with scissors. The next day, this child returned and continued to have unsafe behaviors. This child (and their family) needs more resources than we are able to provide at the current time. This makes an unsafe learning environment for all the children in the classroom, in the classroom next door, as well, as the adults trying to support the child. This is only one example of elevated behavior but I could go on and on.

With your support to fund the Student Success Act, not only would this child and their peers feel more safe, their academic needs would be met with smaller class sizes and we can actually work to close the achievement gap. Every late winter/early spring in my 17 years as an educator, we begin to hear how budgets will be cut. This makes it very hard to build a solid program in which students can receive a consistent and cohesive education. As educators, we do our best to keep it going but it is demoralizing and becomes too difficult to move forward due to inconsistent budgets that require necessary changes. Often these changes require our staff to modify our practice or end a program that keeps us from making great strides at closing the achievement gap. With the Student Success Act, we could provide a more consistent program through the years.

As a parent, my husband and I chose to live in Oregon and many years ago when we made that decision, I assured him that the public schools provided a rigorous and competitive education as I am a product of an Oregon public school. Through the last 10+ years of cuts and inability to fully fund schools, I am disheartened that my children attend schools in which they receive less education than their peer in other states, up to a year of seat time by the time they graduate. These children will compete for jobs with others than have had more schooling opportunities and, therefore, may not be as competitive.

My middle school daughter talks frequently about the "waste" of class time in her school due to disruptions caused by other students. These students NEED you to fund school for them. They are powerless, YOU are NOT.

By FUNDING the Student Success Act, you are providing equity to those who need it most and you are supporting the future of Oregon. PLEASE use the authority you have been given to do right by our children and the families that need it most.

Best Regards,

~Michelle

Michelle King
Intervention Teacher, Title 1
Fir Grove Elementary