

To the Joint Committee on Student Success:

Please invest in the education of our students. Please do not allow any more cuts to education! Education in Oregon has not been fully funded for far too long. Our numbers in terms of achievement and graduation, especially of our most-impacted communities, are unacceptable.

In the past, when there have been budget reductions, the students were the most impacted. For example, in the 2013-2014 school year, just after budget reductions and layoffs, my class size increased from 24-25 (for the previous 6 years) to 36! This number was shocking. In fact, many of our families decided to move to different districts and private schools. The students suffered the most. Please do not return to this type of environment for our learners.

In the last few years, with more investment, class sizes have been slowly going down and our ability to teach students the skills and knowledge they need for a better future and career, has improved.

Let's not go back to the Dark Ages! Invest in our student's future! We owe it to our students!

Thank You,  
~Melissa Gonzalez  
5th Grade TWI  
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