



*from the desk of
Sen Sara Gelman*

Coalition of Communities of Color urges a YES on the Student Success Act

The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is proud to support the Student Success Act (House Bill 3427,) which will fund transformative and culturally specific programming in Oregon schools. In our work advocating on behalf of African, African American, Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic Oregonians, we've seen firsthand the toll that decades of disinvestment has taken on communities of color across Oregon.

We are thrilled to support a funding package that is responsive to the needs of black, brown, indigenous, immigrant, and refugee students in Oregon and will help to close the opportunity gap. The Student Success Act funds culturally specific programs from early learning through k-12.

At CCC, we are particularly excited to see:

- Funding for the Latino, African American, and Native American Student Success plans.
- The requirement that districts provide accountable and specific resources to close the opportunity gap.
- Full funding of the Early Childhood Equity Fund and Measure 98 career and technical education.

These programs will be highly effective because they are informed by impacted communities. But too often, culturally specific programs are the first programs to receive one-time funding or no funding at all. We know they are essential to closing the opportunity gap and beginning to address the systemic racism and oppression that students of color face daily. We thank you for listening to advocates and equity experts by implementing many of the best practices we shared with the JCSS committee



during their deliberations.

In addition to specific programs and principles, we shared with the Joint Committee on Student Success the importance of funding these vital investments with a progressive and equitable corporate tax. Seeing many of our priorities reflected in the Student Success Act is a huge step forward, and these programs will make a real difference for black, brown, indigenous, immigrant, and refugee students in Oregon. We are grateful to legislators for the careful consideration that has brought us to this historic moment.

Oregon students across the state *need* the Student Success Act. We cannot continue to disinvest in our schools — it's not right and it's not equitable. With the Student Success Act, we can finally give all Oregon students — whether black, brown, or white — the specific resources that they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. **A yes vote today is a vote for more equitable schools and a more equitable Oregon.**