



February 10, 2020

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for House Bill 4098. I am Cynda Rickert, Superintendent of Eagle Point School District 9.

Technology helps us access information, exchange ideas, and connect with our loved ones and build a more connected community. The emphasis of STEAM education in Oregon schools is pressing now more than ever. Career and economic opportunities within computer science are rapidly growing and the pay is typically much higher than occupations with similar education levels. This equity-focused computer science education bill is an important piece of legislation for the future workforce of Oregon and to help enrich the K-12 curriculum.

Students of color, women, rural and low-income students are being left behind in computer science and the tech industry. Oregon is one of only five states nationwide that has no established statewide education policies that encourage or support students to learn computer science. Schools and educators recognize the importance of opening doors to develop student's personal growth and their competitiveness on a regional and global level.

HB 4098 will develop the strategic plan the state needs in computer science. HB4098 focus on equity and inclusion to increase students' access to computer science and opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have.

I urge your support in the passing of HB 4098.

Respectfully,

Cynda S. Rickert