



Jim Seymour, Board Chair
Community Member

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, members of the Education Subcommittee, my name is Jim Seymour, community member and Chair of the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub Board of Directors. I am writing to express my support for fully funding Early Learning Hubs in the 2021-2023 budget.

Dave Novotney, Board Secretary
Willamette Education Service District

As chair of the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub, I have seen first-hand the value and impact of hubs as a key part of the larger early childhood system. Hubs are uniquely positioned to convene cross-sector partners to focus on the goal of aligning services to meet the needs of children and families within the context of the local community. In our region, because of the Hub work, we have been able fill gaps in services and bring partners together in new ways. This investment has allowed us to be nimble in our approaches to the work, and for multiple community partners to be able to leverage resources to meet the community needs. As an example, we have been able to clearly identify priority populations and develop specific strategies and supports for families. This includes parent education, kindergarten transition programs, literacy initiatives, and health initiatives.

David Rheinholdt, Board Treasurer
Rheinholdt Insurance

Angie Blackwell
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Phil Blea
Marion County Health and Human Services

We are proud of the work we have been able to accomplish to meet needs of historically underserved populations in our community. We have partnership with culturally specific organizations and have been able to build capacity to increase access to parent education, kindergarten transition programs, and assisting families in finding preschool resources to meet their needs.

Kerry Blum
Polk County Behavioral Health

Donalda Dodson
Oregon Child Development Coalition

We are just beginning to see and feel the impact of the pandemic – and in our area the impact of wildfires and the recent ice storm – and understand the impact on families with young children. We struggle to meet the needs of families facing economic insecurity prior to the pandemic and we know those struggling prior to 2020 have taken the brunt of the impact of the last year. This is not the time to cut services to these vulnerable families.

Andy Gardner
N.Santiam School District

Levi Herrera Lopez
Mano A Mono

Jimmy Jones
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action

A reduction in funding will result in fewer opportunities for families to experience Ready for Kindergarten and other kindergarten transition activities. It will also directly impact on our ability to convene partners and financially support the work of regional partners. We have gained so much ground in our work and ask that you continue to support early learning hubs as a part of the overall early learning system and in making population level changes to ensure children are ready for kindergarten, families are supported, and services are coordinated and aligned.

Stacy lake
Department of Human Services

Christy Perry
Salem Keizer School District

We urge your support for full hub funding.

Jim Seymour, Chair
Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub