

March 27, 2021, Re: Support for increase in funding

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Senator Frederick, Representative McLain, and Members of the Committee:

The 2019 Student Success Act recognizes and validates the core mission of ESDs across Oregon. Now more than ever, our work to ensure every student- whether residing in a large urban or small rural district- has the support necessary to achieve educational success is critical. I ask for your help in continuing our work during the 2021-23 biennium by fully funding ESDs and the Student Success Act.

This past year has placed more impediments and challenges to equitable, successful educational advancement than imaginable when the SSA was initiated. Clackamas ESD, along with our partner ESDs across the state, has been providing technical assistance, guidance, data acquisition and data analysis to our regional school districts to amplify the impact of SSA. From supporting stakeholder outreach to using data to drive more equitable support to students, we have played an important role in SSA implementation with particular emphasis in supporting student mental health and safety. We have:

- **Engaged directly with more than 1,200 families** through our Care and Connection Outreach program to personally visit the homes of students who were not connecting with their schools during the pandemic
- **Trained hundreds of district staff and other stakeholders** in suicide prevention, mental health first aid, trauma-informed practices, culturally responsive practices, and the use of equity tools in decision making
- **Created dozens of equity data reports** for district use during stakeholder engagement to clearly show achievement gaps among student groups and summarize key priorities heard through community engagement efforts
- **Begun pilot project with the Latino Network** to help districts develop and/or deepen partnerships with community organizations

At Clackamas ESD, we are fully in step with our partners to create impactful results through the Student Success Act. I urge you to fully fund ESD technical assistance in 2021-23 so we can continue the momentum we have gained. Every child deserves nothing less.

Sincerely,



Linda Brown, CESD Board of Directors