



March 30, 2021

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

Re: Support for increase in funding

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

The 2019 Student Success Act reminds me of the work Oregon accomplished during my days as director of ODE's Early Learning Division nearly 10 years ago: a targeted investment delivering clear results for children. Thank you for taking this significant step forward to better serve our youngest Oregonians and their families. I ask for your help in continuing that work during the 2021-23 biennium.

Clackamas ESD, along with our partner ESDs across the state, has been providing technical assistance to our regional school districts to amplify the impact of SSA. From expanding stakeholder outreach to using data to drive more equitable support to students, we have played an important role in SSA implementation, particularly in supporting student mental health and safety. A few tangible examples:

- **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 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
- **Began 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 partner ESDs to create a statewide impact 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.

Sincerely,

Jada R. Rupley
Superintendent

Lead, serve and innovate for learning.

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