



Services are aligned,
coordinated and effective

Families are healthy, stable
and attached

Children are ready for
kindergarten, reading
at grade level and
successful in school

*A partnership between
United Way of the
Columbia-Willamette &
Washington County Health
and Human Services*



Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair

April 1, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee,

Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) Hub is pleased to support the SB 5513 submitted by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to increase the funding for the STEM hubs for the next biennium.

Access to Early STEM funding is an issue in the State of Oregon and ELWC has undertaken the challenge of applying for funding to support Early STEM education encountering many challenges. Until last year, ODE and private foundations did not include early learning as one of their funding priorities for STEM, only limited to K-12 and higher education. That posed a big challenge for us that must be creative to look for sources of funding.

ELWC and Portland Metro STEM Partnership hub (PMSP) have maintained a strong and lasting partnership to ensure Washington County's most vulnerable children and families as well as early childhood educators have access to multilingual STEM early education opportunities for the last four years. Because our strong relationship, early learning initiatives is now part of the PMSP ecosystem.

The collaboration with the PMSP team has been critical to support the ELWC STEM early education framework. Our framework includes:

- Increase parent-child interactions.
- Access to multilingual Early STEM professional development for early childhood educators (and reduce STEM anxiety).
- Access to multilingual curriculum/materials that could be used in classrooms.
- The development of a multilingual cohort of Early STEM BIPOC educators.

This strong partnership has resulted in collaboration on many efforts, such as developing bilingual STEM NGSS trainings focusing on Math and Engineering, developing multilingual STEM CURIOSITY kits (in Somali, English, Spanish and Arabic), 60 multilingual family Early STEM workshops, bilingual STEM Worms prototypes for Preschool Promise classrooms as

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well as partnering together identifying grants, ODE Innovation grant, OCF Ignite grant, to support the sustainability of Early STEM programs in our region.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will support the SB 5513 submitted by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to increase the funding for the STEM hubs for the next biennium and please let me know if you would like any further information.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Rebecca Collett 4/1/2021

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Rebecca Collett

Co-Director

Early Learning Washington County

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