



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

House Bill 3363 & -2
House Education Committee
April 6, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the House Education Committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education. I am here speaking today on behalf of the [Governor's Office](#) as well as the Oregon Department of Education in support of including students in our education policy process, which is exactly what HB 3363 and the -2 aim to do.

Background:

Currently, the State of Oregon does not maintain a formal and designated student body responsible for advising ODE to ensure racial equity and justice for Oregon's students that specifically includes Oregon's students. The State Board of Education (SBE) does have two student advisor positions that help inform SBE and ODE's Executive Leadership Team.

The problem is clear: Racial inequities and injustice continue to occur in Oregon, and there is no designated student body responsible for specifically elevating the voice and view of Oregon's students. Forty percent of our students are students of color who continue to see persistent gaps in our education system. These also include students with disabilities and students who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/non-binary, Queer/Questioning, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual+ (LGBTQ2SIA+; + recognizes that there are myriad ways to describe gender identities & sexual orientations).

HB 3363 & -2 Amendment

HB 3363 creates the Racial Equity and Justice Student Council. The -2 amendments require ODE to ensure students have sufficient support to participate in the collaborative, which aligns more closely to services offered to existing work advisory group members (such as potential stipends, academic credit, travel reimbursements, and technological assistance).

The department must also provide reimbursements to the adults assisting in ensuring students are able to participate (such as for travel). The remaining support that the bill includes are now spread to other sources:

- School districts are required to provide access to counselors/tutors, and the adult members of the collaborative are required to provide mentorship and mentorship opportunities to the student members.

To properly staff and support the collaborative, the -2s require at least 1 FTE OPA4, who will be responsible for developing and assisting in the setting of the strategic direction for the work, building relationships and partnerships across numerous constituencies, overall holding responsibility for establishing and managing the workgroup, collaborative, and deliverables, and coordinate all of this with ODE leadership. This will require significant cross-agency partnership building in addition to considerable external outreach to build the work group.

The work also requires at least .5 FTE AS1, who will provide full time administrative support for the work, which could include scheduling support, various travel reimbursements, research/compilation as requested, taking of minutes, technological support, and eventual in-person meeting and travel support.

We are proud to support students' involvement in education policy. ODE's Equity Stance reads:

“Education equity is the equitable implementation of policy, practices, procedures, and legislation that **translates into resource allocation, education rigor, and opportunities for historically and currently marginalized youth, students, and families** including civil rights protected classes. This means the **restructuring and dismantling of systems** and institutions that create the dichotomy of beneficiaries and the oppressed and marginalized.”

Equity is at the forefront of how we approach this session, and HB 3363 fits perfectly into our equity work.

[The Governor's Office](#) and ODE urge your adoption of the -2's and your full support of HB 3363.

Thank you,
Jessica Ventura
Government Relations Director