

Ways & Means Co-Chairs, Co-Vice-Chairs and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

As Vice Chair of North Clackamas school district, I'm here to urge you to adopt a \$9.6 billion K-12 school funding level for the 2021-2023 biennium. This is the recommendation of all state education organizations and associations in order to maintain current service levels. In addition, it is important to point out that the Quality Education Model for the next biennium is \$9.994 billion according to the August 2020 report.

It's surprising that I'm here again asking you to fund K-12 education to meet current service levels. We thought with passage of the Student Success Act and one time funds from the State and the Federal government for Covid relief would be enough, but that's the problem – these additional funds are one time dollars. We are grateful for possibly full funding of Student Success resources but these have already been targeted with much community input for student needs of additional counselors, social workers, nurses, family and student engagement specialists, and early learning supports for students prior to the Pandemic. This Pandemic has created more need.

The possible State summer support and ESSER dollars are targeted for the many needs of students as they return from distance learning: recover credits, childcare, enrichment activities, early learning, social/emotional supports, food, technology, costs of implementing then many regulations (ventilation, PPE, etc). Again, these are one time funds.

The current 9.1 B K-12 funding proposal is less than a 1 percent increase in funding compared to last biennium. This will not meet continued rising costs in maintaining current service levels including property & liability insurance which is expected to increase by 17%, employee insurance benefit increases of 7%, and moderate cost of living adjustments. A \$9.1 billion dollar funding level will require our school district to deficit spend resulting in cuts to teachers and student programs in the long-term.

The bottom line is that schools still need to maintain operations from the common school fund to keep our staff and programs in tact. It has been a difficult year for everyone especially children, staff and families.

Please support a \$9.6 billion funding level for the state school fund.

Thank you
Mitzi Bauer, North Clackamas School Board Member