

April 19, 2021

To: Oregon Senate Education Committee  
From: ODE & COSA Emergent Bilingual Visioning Workgroup  
Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 2056

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Department of Education and Coalition of Oregon School Administrators' Emergent Bilingual Visioning Workgroup, we urge you to adopt the -1 amendment and pass House Bill 2056. HB 2056 is a bill that is designed to help promote multilingual education across Oregon.

Our ODE - COSA Emergent Bilingual Visioning Workgroup formed in 2019 and includes representatives from state agencies, school districts, education service districts, universities, and partner organizations from across the state. Together, we share the goal of meeting the needs, and honoring the assets, of Oregon's 102,786 linguistically diverse students.

We developed recommendations around policies and investments that would help support our emergent bilingual students across Oregon. One of the high-impact policies we decided to focus on this legislative session centers around equitable and inclusive language policies.

House Bill 2056-1 resulted from the collective efforts of our ODE - COSA Emergent Bilingual Visioning Workgroup.

This bill updates "English" (also referred to as, English Language Arts), with "Language Arts" (which includes reading, writing, and other communication in any language, including English). This change would impact laws related to: credits, standards, instruction, essential skills, accelerated college credits, and statewide assessment development and administration.

Embracing "Language Arts" rather than strictly "English" as a part of core instruction is an important, and long overdue, change.



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HB 2056-1 will help Oregon recognize and support the unique gifts, talents, and interests of our 102,786 linguistically diverse students. The bill will also provide more meaningful flexibility in helping our emergent bilingual students meet high school graduation requirements.

The -1 amendment will also support the advancement of multilingual education by amending the “World Languages” definition to include: sign language, heritage languages and languages other than a student’s primary language.

With that, our hope is that this bill will continue to build on the work of the Emergent Bilingual Student Success Plan (also known as the Statewide English Learner Strategic Plan) and provide equitable learning opportunities for all students.

We look forward to continuing to support and invest in the success of our emergent bilingual students across Oregon.

We strongly urge you to support House Bill 2056-1.

Sincerely,

**Members of the ODE & COASA Emergent Bilingual Visioning Workgroup**

**Colt Gill**, Agency Director and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oregon Department of Education

**Carmen Xiomara Urbina**, Deputy Director  
Oregon Department of Education

**Craig Hawkins**, Executive Director  
Coalition of Oregon School Administrator

**Kimberly Howard**, Chair  
State Board of Education

**Guadalupe Zapata-Martinez**, Vice-Chair  
State Board of Education

**Cynthia Richardson**, Chair of the Education Recovery Committee  
Governor’s Racial Justice Council

**Toshiko Maurizio**, Administrator for Multilingual Programs  
Beaverton School District

**Wei-Wei Lou** 娄玮薇, Chair  
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) C4 Board

**Danna Diaz**, Superintendent  
Reynolds School District

**Heidi Sipe**, Superintendent  
Umatilla School District

**Karen Gray**, Superintendent  
Lincoln County School District

**Dan Goldman**, Superintendent  
Northwest Regional Education Service District

**Olga L. Acuña**, Director of Federal Programs  
Hillsboro School District

**Charlie Bauer**, ELL/Migrant Education/Indian Education Coordinator  
Southern Oregon Education Service District

**Kelly Devlin**, Director of ESL and Equity  
David Douglas School District

**Shelly Reggiani**, Executive Director of Equity & Instructional Services  
North Clackamas School District

**Andrea Townsend**, Director of Equity & Inclusion  
Ashland Public Schools

**Karen Pérez-Da Silva**, Leader for Equity and System Improvements  
Education Northwest

**Mary Martinez-Wenzl**, Leader for Applied Research and Evaluation  
Education Northwest

**Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom**, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission

**Erin Weeks-Earp**, Academic Policy Specialist  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission

**Julie Esparza Brown**, Professor  
Portland State University

**Ilana Umansky**, Assistant Professor  
University of Oregon

**Karen Thompson**, Associate Professor  
Oregon State University

**Frank Caropelo**, Director of the Center for High School Success  
Stand for Children

**Carlos Sequeira**, Executive Director of School Improvement  
Lane Education Service District

**Chrissy Chapman**, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment  
Woodburn School District