

April 17, 2021

Dear Oregon Ways and Means Committee,

As a veteran teacher of 35 years, I am writing to you to ask that you consider that funding be available to train teachers across the state to use a program called [Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling \(LETRS\)](#). This program includes content on phonemic and phonological awareness, orthography, morphology, vocabulary, and linguistics. These skills are the foundation to learning how to read.

Portland Public Schools has already trained many teachers and has 150 teachers on the waiting list. Teachers are needing and wanting this knowledge so they can better serve all learners.

Currently, I am a Reading Specialist in a rural district and use several the techniques in LETRS to help our struggling primary students learn to read and make meaning of what they have read. Given the fact that our students have missed at least one year if not more of in person learning and small group instruction, LETRS would provide the boost our primary students need. Funding this program would only help the future of Oregon be more successful.

Please support our students by providing teachers this resource. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Diana Sohn

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