



February 1, 2022

Chair Teresa Alonso Leon
Vice-Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: [HB 4112 – Relating to Ethnic Studies Standards & Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the House Education Committee,

As members of the **Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ)**, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to **express our support for HB 4112**.

We represent a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing an inclusive, equitable, racially just, and community-centered public education system for Oregon. **We are proud to endorse in HB 4112, a \$1.25 million investment that will prepare educators to implement Oregon’s new Ethnic Studies standards and create engaging, rigorous, and inclusive learning environments for all students (see enclosed).**

In 2017, Oregon passed historic legislation (HB 2845) with strong bipartisan support to develop comprehensive statewide Ethnic Studies standards for K-12 public schools. This legislation—the first of its kind in the country—represents an important step toward ensuring that Oregon’s social studies curriculum honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

Now, Oregon has a responsibility to train and support our educators as they implement Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools. While Oregon’s educators can begin integrating Oregon’s new Ethnic Studies standards into their teaching right away, the Legislature directed schools to implement the standards no later than 2026—a timeline designed to give our state, school districts, and educators adequate time to prepare.

We appreciate the incredible work that many community and state leaders have put into preparing statewide Ethnic Studies standards for Oregon, giving all students the opportunity to learn about the unique histories of Oregon’s diverse communities. With meaningful and strategic investment in implementation, Oregon can fulfill the promise of new Ethnic Studies standards: **boosting student engagement, addressing academic disparities, and creating culturally and racially affirming learning environments that benefit all students.**

Please vote YES on HB 4112, an essential step toward advancing a more inclusive, equitable, and racially just education system for Oregon’s children.

Sincerely,

Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Adelante Mujeres

Self Enhancement, Inc.

Latino Network

REAP, Inc.

FACT Oregon

Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality

Foundations for a Better Oregon

Oregon Business Council

Immigrant and Refugee Community
Organization (IRCO)

Asian Pacific American Network of
Oregon (APANO)

EUVALCREE

Oregon Student Voice

Friends of the Children - Portland

MESA Oregon

Children’s Institute

Stand for Children Oregon

Native American Youth and Family
Center (NAYA)

Central Oregon Disability Support
Network

Oregon Coalition of Community
Charter Schools (ORC3S)

Friends of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Coalition of Communities of Color

Slavic & Eastern European Center

Africa House

Pacific Islander & Asian Family Center

Greater Middle East Center

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Foundations for a Better Oregon, on behalf of Oregon Partners for Education Justice

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ENCLOSED:

[Oregon Partners for Education Justice 2022 Endorsement: HB 4112](#)

OREGON PARTNERS *for* EDUCATION JUSTICE

VOTE YES ON HB 4112

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ETHNIC STUDIES IN OREGON

The Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ) call on the Oregon Legislature to invest in professional development for educators as they implement Oregon's newly adopted Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed a landmark Ethnic Studies standard with bipartisan support to ensure our K-12 education system honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

Now, Oregon's current and future K-12 educators must be trained and supported to responsibly implement these standards with new lesson plans and instructional materials that are culturally responsive, accessible and meaningfully enrich all students' learning.

By investing in professional development opportunities statewide, Oregon educators can fulfill the promise of Ethnic Studies:

- **BOOSTING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**
- **ADDRESSING ACADEMIC DISPARITIES**
- **CREATING CULTURALLY AFFIRMING AND ACCESSIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT BENEFIT ALL STUDENTS**

Successfully implementing Ethnic Studies is an essential step toward a more inclusive, equitable, and racially just education system that graduates more Oregon students who are better prepared to live, work, and thrive in a diverse world.

"Students of color need and deserve opportunities to learn about the unique histories that inform their own identities. They find connections with authors, scholars, and other voices who look like them. Through Ethnic Studies, educators can support our youth to gain insight into the past, the present, the future, and themselves."

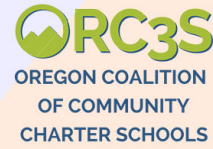
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"Oregon's Ethnic Studies standards can support educators and students to recognize the systemic inequities and oppression experienced by historically marginalized ethnic and social groups, including youth with disabilities. Investing in professional development will give educators the tools they need to teach Ethnic Studies, interrupt racism and ableism, and create equitable schools that are inclusive and welcoming for all students."

CHRISTY REESE, FACT OREGON

OREGON PARTNERS *for* EDUCATION JUSTICE

Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ) is a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing a racially just and community-centered public education system for Oregon. We believe in the vision, wisdom, and leadership of impacted communities, and advocate for equitable policies and investments that eliminate disparities and empower historically underserved children.



Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality



CENTRAL OREGON
Disability Support
Network



YOUTH POTENTIAL REALIZED



the next wave of leaders



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK OF OREGON



Empowering families - Transforming disability



FRIENDS OF OPEJ

