

Oregon MESA
Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science
Portland State University, PO Box: 751
Portland, OR. 97207



February 1st, 2022

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,

Here at **Oregon MESA**, 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, 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.**

Oregon MESA is a state-wide program that provides students underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, engineering, science and technology with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to develop their talents, explore technology-based careers, and enter college and compete successfully in the workforce. **In accordance with Oregon MESA’s mission of bridging the equity gap in STEM fields, it is imperative that our educators gain the tools needed for culturally inclusive and historically accurate STEM education that follow our Ethnic Studies standards.**

In order to create truly engaging learning environments that prepare Oregon students to thrive personally and professionally, all students must have the opportunity to connect with their cultural traditions and the works of diverse scholars, authors, and STEM professionals who came before them. Educators deserve the opportunity to gain adequate training through professional development in order to ensure this.

In 2017, Oregon passed historic legislation (HB 2845) with strong bipartisan support to develop comprehensive statewide Ethnic Studies standards for K-12 public schools. **Now, Oregon has a responsibility to train and support our educators as they implement Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools.**

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 MESA

CONTACT:

Michela Sottura msottura@pdx.edu

Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Oregon MESA