



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

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**HB 4099: Racial Equity & Justice Youth Collaborative**  
**House Education Committee**  
**February 3, 2022**

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Zoe Larmer and I am the Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4099, which will include students in our education policy process.

The problem is clear: racial inequities and injustices continue to occur in Oregon schools deeply impacting the forty percent of Oregon students who are students of color. These systemic inequities are also present for students navigating poverty, students with disabilities, and students who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+. Currently there is no formal designated student body responsible for advising ODE and elevating the voices of our students, particularly those who continue to experience persistent inequities in our education system. The Department of Education has benefited immensely from the input of the student advisors on the State Board of Education, and we are excited to support legislation that would further elevate student voice and lived experience.

To support the collaborative, ODE would require one full-time Operations and Policy Analyst, as well as a part-time Administrative Specialist 1. HB 4099 also calls for ODE to ensure students have sufficient support to participate in the collaborative, including travel expenses and appropriate technological access. As currently written, the fiscal impact would be \$191,987 for the 21-23 biennium, and \$372,412 for the 23-25 biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have. We urge your support of HB 4099.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Larmer

Government Relations Director