



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

December 3, 2024

*Via electronic delivery*

Dear House Bill 2656 Advisory Committee Members,

I want to thank each of you for your hard work and input to inform the development of “A Renewed Vision for Oregon’s Accountability System,” a framework which will provide a foundation for a more outcomes-oriented accountability system for Oregon’s schools.

As the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction, I believe that every child in Oregon should have a safe place to receive a high-quality public education. One key measure of a successful public education system is student performance and achievement. As we know, student educational outcomes are impacted by many factors, and that’s why I am committed to improving housing affordability and behavioral health supports in Oregon so families and children can experience the stability that is necessary for students to be able to learn. And, at the same time, there is work we can do in the public education system to ensure that all students are receiving the high-quality education they deserve.

Per House Bill 2656 (2023), the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), led by Dr. Charlene Williams, convened on my behalf an advisory committee to explore options to expand or revise the K-12 accountability system. I am grateful to her and her team for their work.

As an advisory committee, which included more than 40 education leaders representing school districts, Education Service Districts, Tribes, community-based organizations, education associations, and philanthropic organizations, you have worked hard over seven months wrestling with the following topics:

- Oregon’s current accountability framework, which is connected to individual programs and funding streams;
- Examples of innovative accountability models in other states and around the world;
- Student and educator feedback on what is working and not working in our current system; and
- How our state should define student success and the indicators to show that Oregon is making progress in improving outcomes for students.

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The framework that is informed by your hard work and expertise provides a values-based framework for Oregon. Thank you again.

Now we must turn toward the critical work ahead: building on this foundation with specific actions to improve outcomes for Oregon students in the short, medium, and long term.

Dr. Williams and I will work together to develop a proposed set of concrete actions in response to this framework, and we look forward to soliciting partner feedback, including from our legislative partners, on those action steps in January.

Specifically, we will engage partners on an accountability action plan connected to state funding, including my work to increase the State School Fund Current Service Level (CSL) in my budget. My budget significantly increases the CSL of state resources in the public education system. And along with this push for additional public education funding, we must also maximize the outcomes with the funding that we have right now.

The plan will identify specific actions for ODE to ensure that the agency maximizes the resources they have to meaningfully implement our state's current continuous accountability framework. It will also include actions to improve the connection between state funding and outcomes. Oregonians deserve greater transparency and accountability regarding how taxpayer dollars are advancing student outcomes.

I look forward to working with you on this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor Tina Kotek