



**COALITION OF  
OREGON SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS**

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**Date:** June 5, 2023  
**To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education  
**From:** Parasa Chanramy, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators  
**Subject:** Opposition to [-A7 Amendment](#) to HB 3198

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Good morning, Co-Chairs McLain and Frederick, and Members of the Joint Education Subcommittee for Ways and Means:

For the record, my name is Parasa Chanramy with the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators here to express our opposition to the -A7 amendment to House Bill 3198.

While we support the base bill and goals around improving early literacy, the -A7 amendment would make several massive changes to the Student Success Act that would have a number of negative unintended impacts.

The -A7 proposes adding i) Student Success Grants and ii) Early Literacy Success School Grants under the Student Investment Account for the Student Success Act. It also appears to amend the requirements of the Student Success grants.

We have three primary concerns with this proposal.

The first is, without a guarantee for additional resources, adding two grant programs is problematic because of the finite amount of resources allocated to the [Student Investment Account](#).

Secondly, the SIA is focused on K-12 and has specific goals around:

- Meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs, and
- Increasing academic achievement for students, including reducing academic disparities for focal student populations.

In doing so, school districts, eligible charter schools, YCEP/JDEP providers must engage their students, families, and community partners; conduct a needs assessment; and develop a plan on how to spend their Student Investment Account dollars. Allowable uses include: expanding instructional time; addressing student health and safety; reducing class size and caseloads; and providing a well-rounded education.

The [Student Success Grants](#) and [Early Literacy Success School Grants](#) all have specific requirements for engagement, planning, and allowable uses. Trying to fit these different grants under the Student Investment Account, without recognizing the goals and parameters of each of the different grants - is



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like trying to fit square pegs into round holes - it just doesn't work - and it would potentially put a strain on funding that is already allocated through the Student Investment Account; and create more unintended barriers to funding for eligible applicants.

Lastly, there are a number of provisions in the -A7 amendment that would amend the Student Success Grants to align with the Student Investment Account. There are several Student Success Grants that are already housed under the [Statewide Education Initiatives Account](#):

- African American Black Student Success Plan
- American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Plan
- LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan
- Latino, Latina, Latinx & Indigenous Student Success Plan

Pending legislation, there are two other Student Success Plans that will be added: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Plan ([HB 3144](#)) and the Students with Disabilities Student Success Plan ([SB 575](#)).

All of these Student Success Plans and their grants are uniquely designed to focus on different focal student populations, they are also competitive grants, and their requirements vary from plan to plan - this -A7 amendment would undo all of the work education and community partners have worked on through these different plans without any consultation, or collaboration, on how the different policies and plans work together.

As someone who was one of the many education partners at the table helping develop the Student Investment Account. I would say that the SIA is the linchpin of the Student Success Act - and that this account needs to continue to be allocated for its intended purpose.

A policy change of this magnitude needs much more consideration than a last minute amendment. The -A7 would change years of work without any real debate or opportunity for education and community partners to weigh in.

For these reasons, we oppose the -A7 amendment.

**Our recommendation:**

1. Keep the Student Success Grants in the Statewide Education Initiatives Account.
2. Fund the Early Literacy Success School Grants out of the Statewide Education Initiatives Account and/or the General Fund.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our concerns. We are open and ready to connect more about this very important bill and want to collaborate with you on drafting a new amendment before moving forward.