

OREGON PARTNERS *for* EDUCATION JUSTICE

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



March 8, 2023

Chair Courtney Neron

Vice-Chair Zach Hudson

Vice-Chair Boomer Wright

Members of the House Education Committee

RE: [HB 3288 – Standardize How Oregon Schools Collect Student Race and Ethnicity Data](#)

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, 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 **strong support for House Bill 3288**.

OPEJ represents 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 support HB 3288, which would standardize and improve how Oregon schools collect student race and ethnicity data.**

Collecting student demographic data is essential to ensuring Oregon’s education system sees and supports every child in our state. State leaders, school district leaders, and communities all need access to accurate demographic data to better understand how schools are supporting all students, and ultimately close unacceptable racial disparities in education.

Oregon’s 197 school districts are already required by federal and state law to collect and report race and ethnicity data about their student populations. However, school districts are not required to collect this demographic information in a uniform or consistent way. This disjointed approach can produce inaccurate data when aggregated across school districts. At worst, it can misrepresent and undercount students in both local and statewide data. Too often, data invisibilizes communities that have been historically marginalized and underserved by Oregon’s public education system, denying them critical funding and support.

HB 3288 will build on best practices to develop a coherent statewide approach to collecting student race and ethnicity data. This legislation would require the Oregon Department of Education to convene an inclusive advisory group consisting of relevant stakeholders to propose uniform standards and a plan for statewide implementation by 2026.

Please vote YES on HB 3288 to standardize and improve how Oregon schools collect student race and ethnicity data. This legislation is an essential step toward advancing a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon’s children.

Sincerely,

Oregon Partners for Education Justice

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| Coalition of Communities of Color | Capaces Leadership Institute |
| Adelante Mujeres | KairosPDX |
| Self Enhancement, Inc. | Oregon Student Voice |
| Latino Network | Friends of the Children - Portland |
| REAP, Inc. | MESA Oregon |
| FACT Oregon | Children’s Institute |
| Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality | NAYA Action Fund |
| IRCO | Central Oregon Disability Support Network |
| EUVALCREE | Oregon Business Council |
| Consejo Hispano | Stand for Children, Oregon |
| Foundations for a Better Oregon | Oregon Coalition of Community Charter |
| Urban League of Portland | School |

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[On behalf of Oregon Partners for Education Justice]

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ENCLOSED: [House Bill 3288 Informational Sheet](#)

HB 3288

OREGON MUST IMPROVE HOW SCHOOLS COLLECT RACE & ETHNICITY DATA

Oregon schools have made steady progress toward closing racial disparities in graduation outcomes. To better support our students, we must ensure the race and ethnicity data we rely on accurately reflects the diversity and experiences of our K-12 student population.



BACKGROUND

Currently, Oregon's 197 school districts are required by state and federal law to collect and report data about their students' race and ethnicity. State policymakers, local education leaders, and communities all rely on this demographic data to understand students' experiences and inform decisions. However, historically underserved communities have identified an opportunity to meaningfully improve data quality by aligning the methods and processes that school districts use to gather student race and ethnicity data.



THE ISSUE

The lack of a uniform approach to collecting and aggregating race and ethnicity data can create inconsistent and inaccurate information about Oregon students and their experiences. When state and local demographic data undercounts or misrepresents students, we risk denying critical support to communities that have been historically underserved by Oregon's public education system.



THE SOLUTION



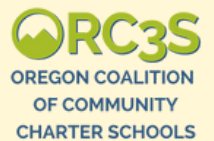
LC 3928 would improve the accuracy and quality of our K-12 student data by aligning and improving how school districts collect race and ethnicity data. Using REAL-D best practices and in consultation with impacted communities, the State Board of Education would adopt uniform standards for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and preferred written and spoken languages. To support successful implementation, the Oregon Department of Education would provide guidance and training to help school districts align around best practices and reduce administrative burden.

OREGON MUST IMPROVE HOW SCHOOLS COLLECT RACE & ETHNICITY DATA

"The next generation of Oregon children will be the most diverse in history, but our state's approach to collecting student race and ethnicity data is broken. Standardizing how school districts collect this data will ensure students of color are seen, counted, and better supported by our public education system."

- Andres Lopez, Ph.D.

Research Director at Coalition of Communities of Color



FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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