



Eugene School District 4J
200 North Monroe Street
Eugene, OR 97402-4295

March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

The Eugene 4J School Board supports the principles and intent of SB 854 and the implementation of comprehensive K-12 climate change education. Climate change education is relevant to every student and it is critically important and urgent to teach and address.

Support for environmental and climate change initiatives and education was identified as one of Eugene 4J School Board's top priorities for the 2023 legislative session. For years our school board has acknowledged the need and urgency to take actions to curb climate change and restore our environment. (Eugene 4J School Board's Call to Action Resolution on Climate Change https://www.4j.lane.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/4J_Board_Resolution_2019-14_ClimateChange_signed.pdf.)


As a school district this includes educating students on the physical and biological systems, consequences of climate change and understanding sustainable and restorative practices which are rooted in science and proactive ways to prepare for and address climate change. SB 854 provides a framework for establishing content standards and curriculum on climate change.

In addition, the 4J School Board identified the priority that all existing and new mandates include the funding necessary for implementation. SB 854 must include a way to fund the huge amount of time and effort it will take to develop statewide content standards, curriculum for K-12 grades and professional development for staff to teach and integrate this new material into the school day.

We urge you to give careful consideration to SB 854 and pass it with a realistic timeline and way to fund the work associated with putting it into practice. Understanding and addressing climate change is critically important to the future of our students.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me at newman_j@4j.lane.edu for additional information or with any questions.

Sincerely,



Judy Newman

Chair of the Legislative Committee on Behalf of the Eugene 4J School Board