

Submitter: Elizabeth Darby

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure: HB3198

My 2 granddaughters began school at age 3 at the French American International School in Portland. By the time they were five, in kindergarten, they were speaking and understanding French. All their classes were in French with the exception of English. When they began middle school at age 11, they had the choice of adding Spanish, German or Mandarin to their curriculum. Both chose Spanish. Today, at ages 23 and 20, both are trilingual and the oldest has a wonderful job with a French company based in Paris. I believe this story more than supports the belief that the most important years for learning in a child's life are the first eight. Every American child should receive the kind of primary education, beginning at age 2 1/2 - 3, my granddaughters received.