

Submitter: Emily McIntire
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1045

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, Members of the Committee,

I would like to share with you ODE's Mission Statement:

The Oregon Department of Education fosters equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities.

I would like to ask you- how do we measure this statement for success?

I can fully appreciate this bill. To look at all the standards, programs, grants, development, licensure, requirements that we have demanded on our schools and then to see our states test scores continue to decrease. To not see our underserved, rural, and poverty students excelling. To hear that our teachers and staff are tired and don't know how they can keep going... And yet- when they come in to give us an informational hearing- they pour their hearts out in sharing ALL they have worked so hard to do- and it is TREMENDOUS!!! Our schools are working their behinds off to meet and reach everything we throw at them- but I tell you- it is unobtainable.

My question- or thought- instead of this bill is- what is OUR goal? What do WE want to have happen with education in our state? I would tell you with the programs, grants, etc, that the legislature has created and implemented through ODE- we have absolutely accomplished everything in ODE's mission- except what is the definition of excellence? School is about learning, academics, knowledge... Where is the balance with the programs vs. the focus on academic achievement? How do we marry these things together....

I would ask- that before we start or keep doing the same thing- that we ask ourselves- on the best day- what data are we wanting to see? What IS our measurement of success? Is it engagement? Or is it academics? Or- how can we effectively make it both?? I am not sure... But how can we have that conversation.

I thank you for this bill. The systemic risk report was enlightening. We should look at it, learn from it, and establish where we would like our education to go from here, Our children, students, are bright! They have the world at their fingertips! Let's give it to them!

Thank you for you time, your service, and your heart for our kids.
Blessings, Emily McIntire