



March 23, 2023

Co-Chair Lew Frederick  
Co-Chair Susan McLain  
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

**RE: HB 5014 and Oregon's Education Budget for the 2023-25 Biennium**

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

As members and supporters of the [Oregon Partners for Education Justice \(OPEJ\)](#), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for three critical investments in children and education during the 2023-25 biennium.**

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 urge the committee to ensure House Bill 5014 includes full funding to prepare educators to implement Oregon's ethnic studies standards statewide; improve and standardize how schools collect student race and ethnicity demographic data; and provide sustainable support for community-based summer learning and after-school programs for youth and families in Oregon.**

Oregon's state budget is a blueprint for our children's future. The Oregon Legislature has the responsibility and opportunity to set clear expectations and improve accountability around how every dollar is invested to ensure all children in every community have access to the equitable learning opportunities and support they need to thrive. To uphold Oregon's commitment to equity and build a stronger public education system for Oregon, we urge the Committee to invest in the following community-endorsed budget priorities included in [OPEJ's 2023 Legislative Agenda](#).

- **\$7 million to prepare educators to implement Oregon’s new Ethnic Studies Standards by 2026. \$1.4 million should be allocated to the Oregon Department of Education to develop culturally responsive professional learning content in partnership with impacted communities, and the remainder should be invested in the Educator Advancement Council to ensure educators across our state have access to these professional learning opportunities. [SB 1050]**
- **Full funding for ODE to launch an inclusive process to standardize and improve how every school district in Oregon collects and reports student race and ethnicity demographic data by 2026. [HB 3288]**
- **\$30 million to support culturally responsive, community-based summer learning and after-school programs that boost youth engagement, accelerate learning, and nurture the health and well-being of students and their families. [SB 531]**

We urge this committee to invest in these critical priorities and pass their corresponding policy bills, all of which are essential to advancing a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon children.

Sincerely,

**Oregon Partners for Education Justice**

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 Schools
Urban League of Portland	

**Friends of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice**

Oregon Community Foundation

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