

Oregon MESA  
Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science  
Portland State University, PO Box: 751  
Portland, OR. 97207



March 23rd, 2023

**RE: [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,

Here at **Oregon MESA**, 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 three critical investments in children and education during the 2023-25 biennium.**

Oregon MESA is a state-wide program that provides students underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, engineering, science and technology with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to develop their talents, explore technology-based careers, and enter college and compete successfully in the workforce. In accordance with Oregon MESA's mission of bridging the equity gap in STEM fields, we urge the Committee to invest in the community-endorsed budget priorities outlined in the [OPEJ's 2023 Legislative Agenda](#). **We ask the Committee to ensure that 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;**
- **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. 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 inclusive, equitable, racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon children.

Sincerely,

Oregon MESA

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