



March 27, 2023

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

RE: HB 5015 - General Fund Appropriation for Oregon’s State School Fund

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 perspective on HB 5015 and the Legislature’s opportunity and obligation to develop an equitable state education budget that supports all Oregon children.

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. **To fulfill this vision, the Legislature plays a pivotal leadership role by ensuring all of Oregon’s education funds—including the State School Fund—are invested to achieve the greatest possible impact for Oregon children.**

Oregon’s state budget is a blueprint for our children’s future, and the State School Fund—the largest single largest line item in the state budget—is a cornerstone of Oregon’s public education strategy. To determine if our state investments in our public education system are adequate, equitable, and leading to improved outcomes for students, state policymakers and local communities must have access to school level data about how State School Fund general grant dollars are being used to support students across our state. Improving transparency will also help ensure that the State School Fund and other state education investments and programs are working together effectively as a comprehensive state education budget to provide every child with equitable learning opportunities and the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our perspective on Oregon’s approach to public education funding, and how it can advance a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon children.

Sincerely,

Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Adelante Mujeres

Self Enhancement, Inc.

Latino Network

REAP, Inc.

FACT Oregon

Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality

IRCO

EUVALCREE

Consejo Hispano

Foundations for a Better Oregon

Urban League of Portland

Capaces Leadership Institute

KairosPDX

Oregon Student Voice

Friends of the Children - Portland

MESA Oregon

Children’s Institute

NAYA Action Fund

Central Oregon Disability Support Network

Oregon Business Council

Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools

CONTACT:

Amanda Manjarrez

Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs

Foundations for a Better Oregon, on behalf of Oregon Partners for Education Justice

amanda@betteroregon.org