



EARLY LEARNING
MULTNOMAH

3/30/2023

Re: Support for House Bill 3198

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the Committee:

I am the Early Learning Director at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and Co-Director of Early Learning Multnomah, our county's early learning hub. I am writing in support of HB 3198 which proposes expanded investments in literacy support for families with children aged 0-5.

HB 3198 proposes that those funds are released in alignment with the Kindergarten Partnerships and Innovation Fund (KPI), and the Equity Fund. In every community across the state, local early learning hubs bring people together to allocate KPI funds in their local community. Hubs support community-based organizations in accessing and leveraging Equity Fund dollars to do culturally specific early learning work as part of the regional system assessment. This is our wheelhouse.

Early learning hubs have been managing KPI investments in local communities across the state since the fund was created in 2014. Hubs are designed to effectively utilize state investment to drive local improvements, with accountability structures at both local and state levels. Early Learning Multnomah, for example, brought parents and educators together to determine how best to invest KPI funds in Multnomah County. We created the *Prenatal to 3rd Grade Program*, affectionately called P3. Staff from culturally specific community-based organizations are P3 Coordinators at 10 elementary schools across the county. They use the Kaleidoscope Model to host playgroups and learning times for families with very young children, and they assist the schools with kindergarten readiness events and outreach. These P3 sites are so popular that every school district has asked for more P3, and our community partners like Latino Network and IRCO, have deepened their connections with schoolteachers and principals. We could definitely grow that P3 program.

If you would like to speak with any parents or partners regarding local KPI and Equity Fund investments, please contact me and I can make a connection for you.

Sincerely,

Molly Day, Early Learning Director at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette
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