



STAND | OREGON
for children

April 4, 2023

In Support of House Bill 3198-3

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the House Education Committee:

I am Sarah Pope, the executive director of Stand for Children Oregon.

I am speaking today in **enthusiastic support of House Bill 3198 with the -3 amendment.**

With this critical legislation, we have an opportunity to quite literally change children's lives by ensuring *all* children leave third grade as strong readers and writers.

We just need to look to Oregon's High School Success Initiative, created by Measure 98, to see what happens when we *create and robustly fund* **research-proven, targeted, and accountable statewide initiatives to improve student outcomes.** We did that as a state through High School Success, which every district is participating in, and we have seen a record 6.5 percentage point increase in high school graduation rates, with students of color and low-income students making the biggest gains.

There are three things in HB 3198 -3 that I want to underscore as paramount to the success of this work:

1. The initiative is **focused and research-aligned** both when it comes to the Science of Reading & Writing and the four strategies schools will implement. Those include: (1) professional learning & coaching; (2) tutoring; (3) summer programs; and (4) curriculum alignment.

These research-aligned strategies have been shown to work for students our system has historically underserved—including BIPOC students, multilingual students, and low-income students.

It is critical that we focus the investment in the culturally responsive, research-proven strategies that have the greatest chance of closing opportunity gaps and raising student achievement.



2. Of these research-aligned strategies, I want to highlight the importance of research-aligned job-embedded **literacy coaching** to support educators in aligning their classroom practices to research. We cannot support our students if we do not also support our educators. And we must invest in our classroom educators in order to ensure we have fewer students who need additional interventions outside of the classroom.

3. I want to emphasize the importance of the **accountability** provided in this initiative. Schools and districts will report to ODE on how they are aligning their strategies to the research, and the outcomes they get as a result. ODE will then be held accountable to the legislature with an annual report that shows how the initiative is achieving the goals.

Going forward, the policy in HB 3198 -3 is strong, and will only be as successful as the legislature's investment. We must ensure funding is robust enough to implement the measures we are asking districts to take on.

In conclusion, the science of reading is complex and layered; and taking that research to life and implementing it every day in every classroom in Oregon is complicated *and* achievable.

We are standing at the precipice of being able to do just that. This focused policy, coupled with funding, will enable us to better support educators, and in turn ensure a brighter future for the over 180,000 children in Oregon's early grades.

Please support HB 3198-3.

Sarah Pope
Executive Director
Stand for Children Oregon