



May 3, 2023

Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner
 Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez
 Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB 5506 and Oregon's Budget for the 2023-25 Biennium

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

As members and supporters of the **Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ)**, a cross-cultural network of community based organizations, culturally specific providers, and education advocates, we would like to express our collective support for **these critical investments** in children and education during the 2023-25 biennium.

- **\$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, POP 103, and POP 301]**
- **\$450,000 to support an inclusive process that will standardize and improve how every school district in Oregon collects and reports student race and ethnicity demographic data by 2026.** **[HB 3288, and POP 101]**
- **\$30 million to support culturally responsive, community-based summer learning programs** that help close educational disparities by boosting youth engagement, accelerate learning, and nurture the health and well-being of students and their families. **[SB 531]**

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 this committee to invest in the priorities included in [OPEJ's 2023 Legislative Agenda](#), 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	Urban League of Portland
Adelante Mujeres	Capaces Leadership Institute
Self Enhancement, Inc.	KairosPDX
Latino Network	Oregon Student Voice
REAP, Inc.	Friends of the Children - Portland
FACT Oregon	MESA Oregon
Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality	Children's Institute
IRCO	NAYA Action Fund
EUVALCREE	Central Oregon Disability Support Network
Consejo Hispano	Oregon Business Council
Foundations for a Better Oregon	Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
	Stand for Children, Oregon

Friends of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Oregon Community Foundation

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