



123 NE 3rd Ave.  
Suite 208  
Portland, OR 97232

[betteroregon.org](http://betteroregon.org)



February 2, 2024

Chair Courtney Neron  
Vice-Chair Zach Hudson  
Vice-Chair Boomer Wright  
Members of the House Education Committee

**RE: [HB 4082 - Investing in High-Quality Summer Learning for Oregon Students](#)**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and members of the House Education Committee,

**On behalf of Foundations for a Better Oregon, I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 4082 to deliver high-quality, community-based, and culturally relevant summer learning opportunities that students across Oregon need and deserve.**

Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO) is a project of Oregon's five largest foundations, working to ensure Oregon supports every child to learn, grow, and thrive. After historic investments in summer learning during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth and families were disappointed when the Oregon Legislature discontinued most funding for summer academic and enrichment programs in 2023.

**Summer learning is a [national priority](#) and an [evidence-based strategy with proven results in Oregon](#) to counteract the pandemic's impacts on student learning and well-being.** House Bill 4082 will renew Oregon's commitment to summer learning by investing \$50 million in 2024 toward summer programs for students from preschool through grade 12. It will also create an inclusive task force of education and community leaders to develop a long-term strategy for Oregon summer learning and after-school programs. This task force will provide recommendations to the Legislature for sustainable funding, high-quality implementation, meaningful oversight, minimal administrative burden, and maximum impact.

**With House Bill 4082, Oregon will immediately expand access to high-quality summer learning programs that boost youth engagement; accelerate learning; nurture physical, mental, and behavioral health; and support college and career readiness.** In addition, the legislation urges school districts to partner with tribes and community-based organizations who hold deep trust with youth and families and can uniquely deliver culturally responsive summer programs in safe and joyful environments. This approach ensures summer learning will benefit all students and meaningfully fulfill the needs of students underserved by Oregon's public education system, including students of color, tribal students, English language learners, LGBTQ2SIA+ students, students navigating poverty, students experiencing disability, and students from rural communities.



**We urge the Committee to support HB 4802, an essential step to supporting all Oregon youth to learn, grow, and thrive this summer and into the future.**

Sincerely,

Whitney Grubbs  
Executive Director  
Foundations for a Better Oregon

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