



**Board of Directors**

Alfredo Moreno  
President

Barbie Minor  
Secretary

Tya Ping  
Secretary Pro-Tem

Felicita Monteblanco  
Director

Miles Palacios  
Director

**General Manager**

Doug Menke

February 5, 2024

Rep. Courtney Neron, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: HB 4082**

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 4082, which directs the Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer the Summer Learning Grant program.

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) serves more than 270,000 community members in over 50 square miles that include the City of Beaverton and eastern Washington County, and we share a similar boundary with the Beaverton School District. We partner with the school district in many ways to serve our shared stakeholders of over 39,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students and their families. As a park and recreation provider, it is our duty and mission to provide high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities we serve.

THPRD summer programs are aligned with the desired goals of the Summer Learning Program described in HB 4082:

- THPRD Provides academic summer enrichment activities in our camps by offering a wide variety of camps that include STEM & STEAM based camps.
- THPRD offers camps for children ages 4-6 years old that focus on kindergarten readiness and social emotional well-being.
- THPRD offers camps that focus on hands on, project-based learning around environmental education, arts and community service.
- THPRD offers paid internship opportunities for students to explore careers in exercise science, landscape maintenance, marketing or park patrol.

In 2023, THPRD offered over 660 camps for kids 4-13 years old, with over 8,000 children participating in these camps. In 2022, funding from ODE's Summer Learning Opportunities program helped support 10 weeks of summer programs, which included:

- Rec Mobiles, which provided free athletic, artistic, and education programs at local schools (in conjunction with their meal programs), parks, and housing complexes.

- Nature Mobile, a mobile classroom that brings environmental education programs to schools, parks, libraries, and neighborhoods across the district. Staff provide fun, nature, and science learning opportunities and hands-on activities to capture the imagination of young people and help them understand the role of nature in their lives.
- Camp Rivendale scholarships and adaptive equipment for individuals experiencing disabilities. These camps provide support and companionship to both youth and adult participants.
- Scholarships for an additional 738 children to participate in a variety of summer camps - both full and half-day options - that focus on general interests as well as sports, nature, music, dance, drama, and aquatics.

THPRD stands ready to work with ODE and our local school districts to provide an additional slate of enrichment activities for the children within our district and urge you and your colleagues to recognize the important role park and recreation districts play in helping meet their recreational, social, and emotional needs. THPRD strives to make summer programming and enrichment opportunities as accessible as possible throughout our community and dedicated funding to support community-based summer experiences is critical to making that happen. We support the Summer Learning Program and hope that HB 4082 will ensure that funding is available to support the type of quality programming THPRD strives to provide to our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Sabrina Taylor Schmitt, Recreation & Aquatic Director, at [s.taylor@thprd.org](mailto:s.taylor@thprd.org) or by phone at 971-330-7660 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Alfredo Moreno  
THPRD Board President



Barbie Minor  
THPRD Board Secretary



Tya Ping  
THPRD Board Secretary Pro-Tem



Felicita MontebLANCO  
THPRD Board Member



Miles Palacios  
THPRD Board Member