



# La Grande

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

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George Mendoza

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Date: February 7, 2024  
To: Oregon House Education Committee  
From: George Mendoza, La Grande School District #1  
Subject: Letter of Support for House Bill 4082-1

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

For the record, my name is George Mendoza. I'm the Superintendent of La Grande School District #1. I've been a Superintendent for 7 years in our district.

I write this letter to share our support for House Bill 4082, with the -1 amendment.

La Grande School District #1 is a 4A school district located in Northeast Oregon. We pride ourselves on empowering learners to learn, staff to thrive and our community to prosper.

#### **A \$50 million investment in summer this year would allow us to:**

- Maintain our K-12 Jumpstart Program that provides three weeks of instruction throughout the month of August to students who have been identified with needing additional support in reading, math or other social emotional skills.
- Maintain our Credit Recovery Program for High School students needing either credit recovery or credit advancement. This program runs from June 10<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>, and provides staff and lab space for students to get help in those credit efforts.
- Maintain the Extended School Year Programming for our Special Education students, with a focus on job skills at the high school level and English and Math at the Elementary and Middle School levels.

With an investment in 2024, we would leverage and braid funds from ESSER III, Early Literacy Grant and General Fund to expand summer learning programs and partnerships, and reach more students.

We know that summer learning works.

#### **Impact of summer learning and partnerships:**

##### **Love ~ Care ~ Serve**

Union County School District Number One

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In La Grande School District #1, we partner with Eastern Oregon University on summer learning opportunities, as a result, we have been able to:

- Maintain partnership with EOU for summer extended learning experiences in the areas of STEM, Business, and Education, and funds usually purchase 25-50 seats for these summer learning experiences
- Our K-12 Jumpstart Program has over 400 students who participate in this program annually.
- Between 75-100 students participate in our Credit Recover/Advancement Program each year.

Your investment in the summer of 2024, and commitment to support on-going summer learning opportunities in the future would help ensure that we are able to keep this momentum moving forward for our students and communities.

We must ensure that there's permanent and continued funding for summer learning moving forward. That way our students, families, and communities can plan for, and count on having sustainable summer programming in the future.

We also need your support in investing in our workforce - our district and many others have had challenges finding enough staff throughout the school year, and over the summer.

Lastly, the timing of when the funding is available matters. Summer learning dollars need to get out the door sooner rather than later so that our districts have time to plan and develop programs with our partners; hire and support staff; and reach out to and connect families with programming that meets their students' needs.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please adopt the -1 amendment and vote YES on HB 4082.

Sincerely,

George Mendoza  
Superintendent

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