



March 19, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron

Vice-Chair Emily McIntire

Vice-Chair April Dobson

Members of the House Education Committee

RE: Neutral on HB 2007

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and members of the House Education Committee,

As members of the [Oregon Partners for Education Justice](#) (OPEJ), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 2007.

OPEJ represents a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations (CBOs), culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing an inclusive, equitable, racially just, and community-centered public education system for Oregon. Many OPEJ organizations work directly with children inside and outside of school, running effective quality programs that blend both academics and enrichment to bolster students' academic engagement and success.

For years, our network has worked with and alongside the Oregon Department of Education, Education Service Districts, licensed educators, and the Oregon Legislature to expand meaningful summer and after-school opportunities. The passage of HB 4082 last year marked a significant milestone, one where the Oregon Legislature recognized summer and after-school learning as both a state priority and an evidence-based strategy to improve student attendance, academic confidence, and learning outcomes.

As partners who championed HB 4082 and participated in the ODE workgroup charged with creating a long-term plan for sustainability of summer and after-school learning, we would like to ask you today to build on the recommendations made by experts in the science of learning

and who deliver high-quality summer and afterschool programs. We strongly believe HB 2007 should be amended to incorporate these essential elements:

- **Expand beyond literacy** and include an evidence-based approach that blends academics with enrichment activities like hands-on learning, STEM, arts, career exploration, youth development, and culturally relevant programming to accelerate learning.
- **Include summer AND after-school programming** to create a coherent ecosystem of support that meets student needs year-round.
- **Build on prior summer investments and extend eligible partnerships to CBOs** who have established roots in their communities and hold deep trust with underserved youth and families.
- **Address barriers to participation** by allowing flexible uses for family outreach and engagement to ensure organizations can effectively reach the children most in need.

We understand the legislative process moves quickly with numerous competing priorities, and this reality makes it even more important to build on prior investments and the mandates made in 2024. **We urge the House Education Committee to amend HB 2007 with these recommendations.**

Sincerely,

Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Adelante Mujeres	Kairos PDX
Arts in Education of the Gorge	Latino Network
APANO	NAYA Action Fund
Capaces Leadership Institute	Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
Center for Black Excellence	Oregon Community Foundation
Central Oregon Disability Support Network	Oregon MESA
Children’s Institute	Project LEDO
EUVALCREE	REAP, Inc.
Friends of the Children - Portland	Self Enhancement, Inc.
Foundations for a Better Oregon	Stand for Children, Oregon
IRCO	Urban League of Portland

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ENCLOSED: [Oregon Partners for Education Justice 2025 Legislative Agenda](#)