



March 19, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and members of the Committee:

My name is Melissa Schachner, Director of K-5 English Language Arts & Social Studies at Portland Public Schools, where I have dedicated 25 years of my career. As a proud member of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, I write to you not because of my K-12th grade education at PPS but in spite of. Thank you, Mom, for sharing your joy of learning with me.

At Portland Public Schools, we understand that literacy proficiency forms the foundation of a child's educational journey. Through the first biennium of this grant, we have utilized funding to purchase and implement high-quality curriculum, then aligned our professional development with the curriculum focusing on evidence-based practices. We are also providing high impact tutoring and offering summer acceleration programming.

With this amendment, we will aim to expand our efforts by offering professional development and coaching to more educators, administrators and instructional assistants, emphasizing culturally responsive strategies for engaging students of color, multilingual learners, and those with diverse educational needs. Furthermore, we seek to strengthen our ability to assess reading progress accurately and use this information to differentiate instruction.

I ask the Legislature to fully fund this initiative, with additive funds. Additionally, and with great importance, collaboration with higher education institutions is vital to ensure that future teachers graduate equipped with the knowledge and skills to implement scientifically proven reading strategies.

Ensuring every child can read proficiently is our paramount duty, particularly in Pk-3rd grades where we pave the way for lifelong success wherever their journey takes them. Ensuring that every student who graduates in Oregon has the reading and writing skills necessary for adulthood requires unwavering commitment—both in policy and funding. Therefore, I urge your support of HB3040 and continue to be open to change until we see positive change for our students.

Thank you,

Melissa Schachner

Director of K-5 English Language Arts & Social Studies
Portland Public Schools