

Submitter: Melissa Reid
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

We need to provide full funding to special education. As someone who has two children in our public education system, I know how important it is that these children get the support they sometimes desperately need to be successful in school for both the impacted group AND the non-impacted group of students in our buildings. When kids with 504s and IEPs are able to function in positive ways at school, ALL students are able to learn. When they do not receive what they need and feel disenfranchised, it is incredibly challenging to teach anyone, and as an educator, I end up feeling like a failure because I truly have failed all of my students. Class size and case load must be a mandatory subject of bargaining for all Oregon schools. This is another issue that greatly impacts the education of everyone. What we want are thoughtful, free-thinking, well-educated citizens, and class-size matters greatly when developing skills, especially at those younger levels. Right now I feel like education in my school district is going pretty well. We have manageable class sizes, well-maintained buildings, and my administrators are all caring, thoughtful, intelligent human beings who have not yet forgotten what it is like to be in the classrooms. We have what we need and our students are thriving. I am counting on all of you to continue to fund us in such a way as to allow us to continue on unharmed despite what is happening at the federal level right now. I thank you for your service and your creativity in solving the issues heading our way. Sincerely, ~Melissa Reid