



To: House Committee on Education
From: Marisa Fink, Ed.D, Executive Director, Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
Date: March 18, 2025
Subject: Support for HB 2007 with amendments

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marisa Fink, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of YMCAs. I work to support the 12 YMCA associations that serve over 100 towns and communities across the state.

I am writing to oppose HB 2007 as it was introduced and in support of HB 2007 with amendments. Summer and after-school learning are among the most effective strategies to boost student engagement, learning, and well-being. These programs are critical for historically underserved youth, who benefit most from culturally responsive programming that cultivates a sense of belonging and connection while providing social, emotional, and academic support.

In 2024, a bipartisan group of 30 legislators and a large coalition of partners [came together](#) in support of developing a long-term plan and vision for summer and afterschool learning. Together, they passed HB 4082 with the leadership of Rep. McLain and co-sponsorship of the education policy and budget subchairs Rep. Neron, Sen. Dembrow, and Sen. Frederick, as well as the support of Governor Kotek. This created a \$30 million investment for summer 2024 while also creating a workgroup to develop a longer-term plan. That plan was completed in December 2024 and shared with the Legislature, culminating in a longer-term [plan, along with a study of the barriers that the plan intends to address](#). I had the honor and privilege to serve on that work group. I have the following concerns with HB2007:

1. HB 2007 does not currently align with what research offers as a roadmap for high-quality programs.

Please amend legislation to allow enrichment and authentic exposure to hands-on learning experiences. Students who are struggling in reading are not likely to attend optional summer programs that are rigidly focused on academics. Additionally, the current framing could lead to stigmatization for children and families who have been underserved by traditional K-12 programs. This legislation must recognize research on how students are motivated to learn. I encourage you to read [slides 26-37 of the deck](#) used at the first ODE Summer & Afterschool Learning workgroup, launched by HB 4082; this provides a user-friendly overview of the research as well as the history of summer learning investments in Oregon as the workgroup built from this history.

2. HB 2007 erases the very goals that were created by HB 4082 and that were validated through the inclusive 4082 workgroup process. The bill replaces the three core requirements (academic enrichment, youth development, and equitable access).

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Student voice is important. The [2024 Summer SEED Student Perception Survey Report](#) captured the voices of over 8,000 students, highlighting student perspectives on belonging, well-being, and identity-affirming environments in 2024 summer programs, offering valuable insights into student experiences and program effectiveness.

3. **HB 2007 Requires a match that will disproportionately create barriers for CBOs and tribes.**

Please remove the match requirement. If organizations had the funding for summer learning, these programs would already exist at scale. Many conversations about matches were had during the development of HB 4082 with ample partner input, and across the board, this was seen as a barrier for districts, ESDs, tribes, and CBOs. Why create unnecessary barriers to access when the point of summer learning is to enhance access?

4. **HB 2007 removes the ability to support successful transitions for grade 12 students to post-secondary.**

Please restore the allowance to use summer learning to support outgoing grade 12 students. The bill changes "outgoing grade 12 students" to "incoming grade 12 students" - a subtle but important distinction in who can be served. So essentially, seniors without enough credits would not be eligible. This does not align with partner input for HB 4082, which intentionally included outgoing 12th-grade students to promote successful transitions, which disproportionately impacts students of color and low-income students who face greater barriers to post-secondary access.

5. **HB 2007 reduces administrative fees to 5%.** The maximum administrative expenses are reduced from 10% to 5% of the grant amount; this is hard to understand particularly given the increase in required reporting.

Please restore the administrative expense to 10%. While a small detail, this is necessary to ensure districts, ESDs, tribes and CBOs are able to engage authentically with the reporting requirements.

6. **HB 2007 creates barriers for ESDs, local government, and community-based organizations.** On page 2, the legislation states, "An entity is an eligible...if the entity has demonstrated expertise and experience in using research-aligned literacy strategies, as defined in ORS 327.825 and as determined by the department based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education."

Please remove this language. This will create an unnecessary barrier for culturally and linguistically relevant literacy strategies because that research is an underdeveloped and small base of research. This is an important flag because 1 in 5 of Oregon's student population is multilingual.

Parents and students need predictable and equitable funding for summer and after-school learning, including funding to community-based organizations and tribal programs serving our most impacted communities. We understand that the Legislature moves quickly and many competing priorities are in flux; **we believe it's therefore even more important to listen to the experts who put hours of thought and expertise into what this legislation needs to look like.** As a member of the coalition partners who developed HB 4082 and participated in the ODE workgroup process, HB 2007 undoes all of our hours of work, expertise, and input to help the State develop a long-term plan that results in high-quality student

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outcomes. The [Summer and Afterschool Programs for Student Success HB 4082 Final Study](#) was released in January 2025. Respectfully, at a time when we are having statewide conversations about shared accountability, it is a step in the wrong direction to have the Legislature say in 2024 to ODE and community partners, “develop a long-term plan and vision for summer learning and report back to us,” and then in 2025 for the Legislature to propose a new plan with no partner input from those who deliver summer programming.

On behalf of the YMCAs who have been serving Oregon’s youth and families for over 150 years, thank you for your support and consideration of our recommendations.

Respectfully,

Marisa Fink, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Oregon Alliance of YMCAs.