

To: House Committee on Education
Date: February 3, 2026
Subject: In Support of HB 4112

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

We are Our Future, Oregon's youth leadership network for climate action and justice, representing student Regional Leaders from 15 high schools and peers across the state.

We urge you to support HB 4112, ensuring that our proud Oregon tradition of immersive, hands-on science education continues to thrive for future generations. We are proud of Oregon's natural beauty, and we want future generations to grow up cherishing, exploring, and protecting it—just as Outdoor School taught us to do.

As current high school students (ages 14-18), we aren't far removed from our own Outdoor School experiences. Here's what some of our Regional Leaders shared:

“It’s really important for kids to get out of their usual school and home environment and be able to get excited about going somewhere new and learning something new.” - Denise

“Outdoor school was able to bond students in my grade in a way that couldn’t be replicated at school. Activities like campfires and overnight cabins instill a sense of community that made students in my grade more close-knit.” - Sara

“Teaching field study allowed me to form a deeper connection with and understanding of the natural world, while building leadership skills and confidence in myself.” - Avery

“Outdoor School was a formative experience for me because it introduced me to activities and environments I had not previously experienced: learning about native plants, making rope from grass, living in cabins, and exploring meadows, creeks, and woods alongside my cohort of fellow fifth graders. Experiencing this together made the learning feel real and memorable.” - Lily

Outdoor School sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and connects students to Oregon's natural world. We respectfully urge the Oregon Legislature to support continued funding, so every student can have this transformative experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Our Future's Student Leaders