



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

House Bill 2440: Latino Student Success Education State Plan House Committee on Education March 4, 2019

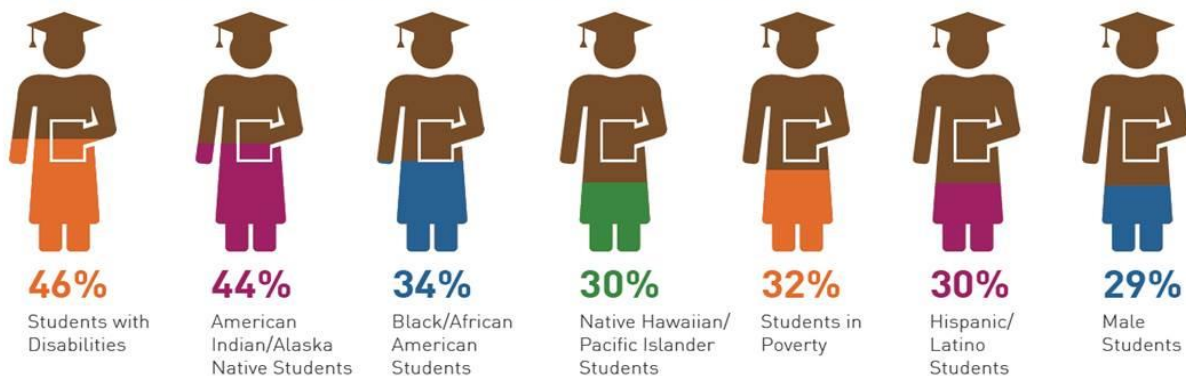
Good afternoon, Chair Doherty and members of the committee. For the record, I am Colt Gill, director of the Oregon Department of Education. With me is Jessica Ventura, legislative director for the department. We are here today to speak in favor of House Bill 2440, which establishes the Latino Student Success Education State Plan.

In the last few years, the Oregon legislature has invested in equity initiatives through legislation. At the heart of these bills was the need to put a spot light on what is currently being done to increase out comes for Emerging Bilingual Students, students from low income families, rural students, African American students, and Native American students in Oregon and more importantly, it is about equity funding and targeting students who have continually been left out of the system. In doing so, the legislature sent a pretty clear signal to the field that for the first time, you would be funding in the future of students who have historically been left out.

ODE was more than excited to partner in this journey and we are more than happy to continue to be partners in the creation of the Latino Student Success Education State Plan. Latino students makeup approximately 24% (136,186 of total student population)¹ of our student population in the kindergarten through grade 12. While the Latino graduation rate exceed what the statewide average rate was three years ago, barriers still persist.

House Bill 2440 will give the department to create a strategic education plan to give attention to the disparities and progress of Latino students. It will ensure that program strategies,

Students Who Did Not Graduate On Time in 2015-2016



¹ Source: Oregon Department of Education

protocols, practices, and paradigms meet students social/emotional, academic, and school involvement outcomes. This plan, will put a spotlight on Latino students and the lack of access to content, instruction, success in academics, and the social emotional needs that must be met in order for them to flourish and excel in Oregon schools.

Previously, the legislature invested in English Language Learners via HB 3499 (2015) and HB 3358 (2015). While these were very important and highlighted the many challenges English Language Learners face, not all English Language Learners are Latino students and not all Latino students are EL students. The state currently lacks a state-wide plan to increase outcomes for Latino students.

While the Oregon Department of Education “fosters equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners and communities,” students from historically and currently marginalized populations continue to experience systemic barriers in school systems that perpetuate inequitable outcomes.

ODE has made equity, diversity, and inclusion a priority and is currently working with several partners to contribute to the successful outcomes of historically marginalized students, families and youth in Oregon. However, we need to do more for students from low social economic status rural students, students with disabilities, student who identify as LGBT and students from diverse ethnicities. Governor Brown is committed to ensuring every Oregon school district is accountable to investing resources that are tied to equitable student outcomes. This means ensuring strategic decision-making at ODE is student centered, equity-focused, and ensures process and practices are in place to drive learning and outcomes.

We ask for your support in HB 2440.