

From: nina.winegar-thurston
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for HB3427
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 6:56:27 PM

Please include these comments in the official record for HB 3427.

Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success:

I am writing to ask that you invest in the future of our schools and students. Our children need the best we can offer and will not receive an adequate education if the budget is reduced as currently proposed. In past budget reductions, I taught a 4th and 5th grade blended classroom with 36 students. I had 39 students when we switched for math. Despite my best efforts, I was not able to teach, support, assist and differentiate for that many children. We did not fit comfortably in the room, and some students sat on the floor. Many students at my school live in poverty and come from traumatic backgrounds that cause them to exhibit behaviors that can disrupt or stop the learning in the room, and can make other students unsafe. Smaller class sizes allow teachers more time to emotionally support these students and keep the classroom a safe place for everyone.

I urge you to insist that the legislature accept HB 3427, and continue to accept legislation to help fund our schools. This bill is a great beginning, but it isn't enough. Our children depend on us, and the future of Oregon depends on them.

Thank you,
Nina Thurston

Nina Thurston
4th Grade Teacher
Greenway Elementary