

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success,

Committee members,

Please fund our schools. The time to act is now.

This school year in Parkrose School District we are taking five furlough/budget reduction days. These days are days our students don't learn and our staff don't get paid, so that we may cover the 1.6 million dollar shortfall to our budget from the last biennium.

This is on top of the over 30 furlough days our district, students and staff have had to take over last decade.

We are down over 20 percent on staff and 20 percent on budget from pre-2008 recession levels.

At the Governor's budget proposal Parkrose School district will be down almost 4 million dollars in the upcoming biennium. It looks very likely that this year we will need to cut teaching and support positions and the following year take even more furlough days.

This is unacceptable.

I am genuinely frightened of what will happen to Oregon schools if the legislature does not take action this session to create stable, adequate funding for schools.

With money to repair the harm that has been done, and invest in Parkrose schools, we will increase bring back programs that have been cut including elementary PE, increase social-emotional supports, add back much needed staff that have been cut.

Please vote Yes for HB 3427 the Student Success Act. Please fund our schools.

We've been underfunding our schools and shortchanging our students for decades. The time to act is now, and this is a landmark opportunity to do so. The Student Success Act, HB 3427, would give our students the resources they need and the high-quality education they deserve. The Student Success Act would create fairness in our tax system for the benefit of Oregon students. It prioritizes protecting small businesses, while also providing needed revenue for our schools and students. With measures to ensure funds are being spent wisely, HB 3427 is an accountable way to finally provide critical revenue for Oregon schools. This transformational investment in our schools will mean lower class sizes, increased graduation rates, expanded CTE programs and safer schools through more social-emotional learning. Please vote Yes for The Student Success Act, HB 3427.

Regards,  
Sara Kirby  
11423 NE Fremont Ct  
Portland, OR 97220