

**TO:** Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capitol Construction

**FROM:** Dr. Danna Diaz, Superintendent, Reynolds School District

**DATE:** April 19, 2019

**RE:** HB 5030 - Lottery Bond Request for Reynolds' School-Based Health Center

**The Community:** Serving nearly 11,000 students from five municipalities across East Multnomah County in 21 schools, the Reynolds School District strives to meet the challenges presented by rapidly changing student and community demographics. More than 40 languages are currently spoken and 10% of students are identified as experiencing homeless at Reynolds High School.

**The Need:** The assets of the diverse Reynolds community deserve equitable access to health care. Data collected by the Oregon Health Authority and local providers demonstrate urgent rates of untreated health related illness and conditions experienced by Reynolds students.

Kaiser Permanente identifies Reynolds students as impacted by more chronic conditions and illicit behaviors than comparable youth served in school health centers.

Reynolds students self-report increased access to mental health services as their number one priority to take hold of their wellness.

When I was in the Fort Worth Independent School District, I saw first hand the improved academic, behavior and wellness outcomes in students from their access to health services centered on campus.

**The Services:** The Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD) has more than 30 years of experience operating school health centers at 10 school sites. The MCHD commits the in-kind medical sponsorship to offer free physical, mental and behavioral health services to all K-12 Reynolds students regardless of their family's status or ability to pay.

**The Plan:** A broad based, reflective committee of students, parents, partners and stakeholders convened to strategize for a school health center at Reynolds High School. The Reynolds School Board approved an architectural study and possible drawings.

**The Next Steps:** With resources in hand, the district plans to immediately renovate a temporary space to offer service in Fall 2019 with a permanent facility to open on campus at Reynolds High School in 2020.

As the Superintendent of the Reynolds School District, I apply a student-centered equity lens for every decision I make. The image is crystal clear. Students in my schools in East Multnomah County should not have barriers to health access based on the zip code where they reside.

I strongly endorse the state legislature for capital funds to build and open a health center by the 2020 school year. Thank you.