



TODAY, YOU WILL MAKE HISTORY

HB 3427, the Student Success Act, comes to you today after your colleagues on the Joint Committee on Student Success spent eight months logging 2700 miles, visiting 77 schools, and speaking with thousands of Oregonians throughout the state to learn about public education. They heard of successes and struggles; the chronic underfunding of the public-school system; and the hopes and dreams of parents, teachers, community leaders, businesses, and students. They met for countless hours in committees and subcommittees, in consultation with legislative fiscal, revenue, legal, and research staff. What you have before you today reflects the fruits of all that labor and represents what the public told lawmakers they want for our children. In fact, Oregonians have regularly voted to tax themselves for public education. Please see map on back, which shows all successful education levies since 1995.

The Student Success Act delivers on the wishes of our people. It doubles the resources for children ages birth to five. Its game-changing investment in K-12 will bring funding within 96% of the Quality Education Model's recommended funding level. Its focus on class-size reduction, well-rounded education, more learning time, and meeting students' mental and physical health needs is embedded with meaningful equity principles that ensure that our most challenged students are well-supported, both in their social-emotional and academic growth.

We have been honored to help envision and advocate for many of the elements of this historic legislation. For too long, our students have paid the price of chronic under-investment in their futures. That 30-year reality will end with the enactment of this important bill.

Some of the features we especially appreciate are these:

- Flexibility for local communities and educators to shape investments;
- Extra supports for struggling students, especially those in poverty and those who have been traditionally underrepresented;
- A fair revenue plan that offers tax relief for families, stability for schools, and better corporate sharing in the tax responsibility;
- Meaningful accountability, paired with transparency and technical support to ensure success.

The Student Success Act contains a treasure trove of important opportunities for our students to thrive. Such provisions as those addressing school safety, summer learning, youth reengagement, and of course, the ability to add art, music, PE, librarians, counselors, and full funding for CTE directly respond to the public's dreams for our students.

We hope that this Act represents your dreams for them too.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HB 3427.

