



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

*Oregon achieves . . . together!*

**Colt Gill**  
Director

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Golden and Smith and Members of the Committee,

As you contemplate where to invest state resources for this biennium, I wanted to express the value of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) as well as to children and families across the state. In recent years, ODE has collaborated with the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, the Oregon Commission for Women, the Oregon Commission for Hispanic Affairs, and the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

The subjects of our work together have been broad. They include the introduction of culturally responsive trauma informed practices in our schools, illuminating and identifying restorative practices for addressing discipline disparities for underserved or marginalized students, quantifying gender inequities for girls in our schools and for women in the education workforce, and providing expert guidance on the development of ethnic studies standards for Oregon's education system.

The methods of engagement in this partnership have been equally broad, and include sharing expertise and being active thought partners; providing access to communities of color; development of original studies, issue briefs, white papers, and presentations; participation on work groups; providing access to high quality graduate student interns; and elevating the voice of our underserved students and families.

In my time at ODE, I have found the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office to be an essential partner as we drive to accomplish our foundational goal to improve student outcomes: *To interrupt and transform historically inequitable systems and provide an equitable education in an environment free of discrimination for every student, youth, family, and staff member.*

Sincerely,

Colt Gill  
Director, Oregon Department of Education