



March 27, 2021

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair

Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for Maintaining CSL Student Success Act Funding for ESDs

Dear Senator Frederick, Representative McLain, and Members of the Committee:

HB 3427 (2019) established the foundation and operational guidance for Oregon's Student Success Act including funding and support for improved educational outcomes for students across the state. As part of this Legislation, Oregon's education service districts (ESDs) were identified as playing a critical role in the implementation of the programs proposed by the Act. An appropriation of \$24 million was budgeted for grants from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to ESDs to support component school districts in the development and implementation of their 2020-21 plans. This appropriation was later reduced to \$20 million in August of 2020. On behalf of Northwest Regional ESD and the 20 school districts we serve, we are asking that this amount be restored to \$42 million for the 2021-23 biennium. This amount represents the original service level appropriation for the full two-year period of the upcoming biennium.

Student Success Act implementation carried out by Northwest Regional ESD has included the following activities:

- Coached and trained school districts to deepen community engagement efforts focused on communities of color and other historically marginalized groups and to ensure high-quality plan submissions to ODE for the Student Investment Account.
- Advised on research-based and culturally sustaining practices, to help districts match proven strategies to community-identified needs at scale.
- Developed plans to expand leadership and mentorship in high-need areas identified by districts, specifically in early literacy, social emotional learning, instructional coaching, and racial equity.
- Identified systemic barriers for historically marginalized students and assisted district leaders to prioritize SSA programs that close opportunity gaps.
- Identified ways to expand high-quality early learning access and to ensure better alignment with the K-12 system.
- Conducted community engagement efforts, such as:
 - Co-facilitating dozens of meetings with school leaders across the region to support community-based root cause analysis.
 - Analyzed 20,292 survey responses coded to identify investment strategies that will improve outcomes for focal populations.

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Northwest Regional Education Service District

- Trained 130 educators across our four counties in empathy interviews, a strategy to deepen understanding of community need.
- Conducted 117 conversations with parents and caretakers in support of early learning planning.

Read more about this work in the report from [the technical assistance team that supported Student Investment Account planning](#), in this [summary printout](#) and in the [Northwest Early Learning Hub's January 2020 report to partners](#).

I urge your consideration of \$42 million for the 2021-23 biennium from the Statewide Initiatives Account for ESDs to continue and further develop this work in our region with our 20 school districts and their approximately 104,000 students.

Thank you for your continued service to Oregon's children's and families-

Dan Goldman
Superintendent | Northwest Regional ESD

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