



2804 SW Sixth Street, Redmond, OR 97756 / P 541.693.5600 / F 541.638.9646 / [www.hdesd.org](http://www.hdesd.org)

March 29, 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 Restoration of Funding for SSA work by ESDs

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

In 2019, HB 3427 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 High Desert ESD and our component Districts of Bend-La Pine, Redmond, Sisters and Crook County, **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.

The support for component school districts in our region has focused on the following activities:

- The hiring of Bend-La Pine School District's former Superintendent to serve the region as our Chief Student Success Officer. He provides, leadership, coaching, training, and grass roots support to every district with their SIA plans and implementation.
- Regional Mental and Behavioral Health leadership to better align, coach and support existing and new initiatives in this areas in mental and behavioral health across districts and systems.
- The hiring of Culture of CARE trauma-informed coaches to provide training, coaching and support to all of our districts, their building leadership, teachers and students.
- A Student and Family Partnerships coach and leader to help all of our districts improve on their ability to meet with families and youth (especially those families of color) to better engage and partner with them, as is called out in the SSA.
- Regional Social-Emotional Learning leadership, coaching and training.
- Additional technical assistance for our districts in all areas of the SSA requirements.

We 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 four school districts and approximately 32,000 students

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Andrews", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Paul Andrews, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

