

# Harney Education Service District

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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 (SSA) 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 2020-2021 plans. This appropriation was later reduced to \$20 million in August of 2020. On behalf of Harney Education Service District and the 9 school districts we serve, we are asking that this amount be restored to \$42 million for the 2021-2023 biennium. This amount represents the original service level appropriation for the full two-year period of the upcoming biennium.

ESD are identified in the SSA to provide technical assistance to school districts.

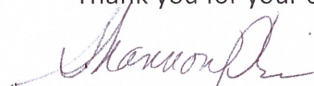
What that means for Harney ESD is that we assisted our component school districts with:

- understanding the multi-faceted layers of the Student Investment Account goals and expectations;
- facilitating community engagement;
- identification, discussion and education on who our traditionally underserved populations are;
- assessment of district needs in order to improve student achievement;
- analysis of available data on student performance, and
- professional development and coaching.

To accomplish this task every ESD was required to hire, at a minimum, a .25 SSA liaison. In smaller ESDs that meant assigning this task to staff who already had full plates. The importance of this work continues and the need to hire a person to champion this cause is evident and necessary.

I urge your consideration of \$42 million for the 2021-2023 biennium from the Statewide Initiatives Account for ESDs to continue and further develop this work in our region with our 9 school districts and their unique and diverse needs.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support to Oregon's children and families.



Shannon Criss  
Superintendent