



March 30, 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 Increase in Funding

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 Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District and our 12 component school districts, 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:

- Provided technical assistance to districts with understanding the SIA process and application through ongoing communication and support
- Provided engagement tools and assistance for districts to deepen community engagement efforts to inform their plans
- Provided guidance in understanding and using an equity lens throughout the development of their SIA plans
- Provided templates, worksheets, and assistance in drafting application components and edits
- Provided on-going communication between ODE and the districts to support needed additions to ensure completion of all requirements and adherence to timelines
- Completed a deep analysis of the goals and data from all our 12 districts plans and needs to inform and create our ESD's Statewide Education Initiatives Account plan in order to align and directly support the work they need

I urge your consideration of \$42 million for the 2021-23 biennium from the Statewide Initiatives Account for ESDs to support our 12 school districts and their approximately 37,000 students.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonja Everest".

Tonja Everest, Superintendent