



Success, Achievement, Together ... for All Students

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 the Willamette ESD and our 21 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:

- **Development of a Cross-Functional Equity, Inclusion, and Achievement (CFIEA) Team serving in the critical areas called out in regional SIA Plans:** 1) Mental Health and Behavior, 2) Social Emotional Learning, 3) Early Learning, 4) Culturally Responsive Teaching:
  - WESD's **CFEIA Team supports equity and system sustainability** through continuous improvement
  - **Networks for technical assistance in all critical areas:** learning communities, workshops, and consultation
  - **CFEIA Team is responsive to trends and crises** occurring from COVID pandemic, wildfires and ice storms
  - Technical supports provided by CFEIA Team help districts build sustainable systems and practices that support all students
- **The WESD CFEIA Team has bridged communication gaps with Early Learning Partners and public elementary schools**
- **The WESD CFEIA Team has established stronger relationships with all three county mental health agencies** and bridged communication gaps of the districts within each

- The WESD Center for Education Innovation, Evaluation and Research has **increased support for community engagement** for Student Investment Account planning and engaging focal populations including:
  - Empathy interviews
  - Custom Surveys
  - Focus Groups
  - Language Support
  
- **All 21 component school districts have engaged with CFEIA Team** technical Supports, representing:
  - **Over 400 regional partners:** educators, mental health partners, and early childhood providers
  - **Over 60 schools engaged** in Trauma Informed Care, Social Emotional Learning, Emotional intelligence, and/or Culturally Responsiveness and inclusion
  - **56 early learning providers** representing all three counties
  - **36 mental health partners** representing all three counties
  - **11 superintendents engaged in monthly equity leadership meetings**

**Quotes from educators engaged with the CFEIA Team:**

Regarding **Trauma Informed Care support in response to wildfires:**

- “Thank you for being available to help us through this. I appreciated some of the concrete ideas and sample phrases to use with students.”
- “Excellent throughout. Thank you so much for providing this for SFSD families!”
- “Thank you so much for this information and thoughtfulness. It’s much appreciated by me and my family.”
- “This was a very straightforward and clear presentation of ways we can help the kids around us deal with trauma.”

Select Quotes from participants in the **Mental Health and Behavior network:**

- “On behalf of NSSD I want to thank you for being our keynote speaker today. You reached 71 classified staff with a critical message at this time. My staff really appreciated your approach in presenting this material. A great balance of information, discussion, and strategies. Thank You!”-Dave Bolin, Associate Superintendent, North Santiam School District 29J
- “The conversations were productive and, had I scheduled the meeting for over an hour, I would have stayed even longer.” - School Social Worker
- “I see how meeting monthly with this group of people would be incredibly beneficial for the new content discussed, having thought partners with which to problem solve, and sharing/networking with other professionals in the area.”

Select Quotes from participants in the **Social Emotional Learning and Early Learning networks:**

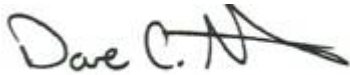
- “I am thankful for this group and the support I experienced here working toward the same shared goals for families.”
- “I appreciated the ability to connect with people that are doing the same thing that we are doing and share resources.”

Select Quotes from participants in the **Instruction and Distance Learning network**:

- "I definitely have some tools I can take back and use with my staff tomorrow."
- "We are so grateful that the ESD has things in place to support us with Canvas."
- "Please include me in your future planning and will be happy to engage, this work is awesome and necessary."

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 21 school districts and their approximately 84,000 students.

Sincerely,



Dave Novotney, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



Sean Aker  
Student Success Act Coordinator