



February 8, 2021

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Oregon State Legislature

RE: ESD Support for Senate Bill 227 with proposed additional language

Dear Senator Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD), representing Oregon's nineteen education service districts (ESDs), are in support of Senate Bill 227 to provide professional learning opportunities related to ethnic studies standards to be developed and adopted by ODE.

The Educator Advancement Council (EAC) is designated in SB 227 as the agency responsible for administration of the proposed funds. Pursuant to ORS 342.943, ten ESDs across the state have been identified by the EAC to host the system of regional education networks under the direction of the EAC. Each regional educator network establishes professional educator priorities which reflect needs for each school and school district in the region, ensures equitable access by educators to resources that are distributed through the EAC, ensures educator access to high-quality professional learning, and strengthens and enhances existing evidence-based practices that improve student achievement and that reflect changing student needs and demographics.

We believe that the existing language in SB 227 should be amended with the provision that the additional funds designated in the legislation be distributed by the EAC uniformly to the regional educator networks throughout the state. Such an approach serves to direct the funds to meet local needs and context while avoiding the unfortunate situation where each regional educator network would need to compete for grant funds. Such an amendment would reinforce the purposes of regional educator networks as described in the original legislation establishing the EAC.

Sincerely,

Gary Peterson

Executive Director