



Vote YES on House Bill 3363-2 Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative

Our organizations support [House Bill 3363-2](#) because we want to center racial equity and justice as we:

- Support diverse student leaders in the policymaking process at the state level; and
- Work to ensure that students – particularly students who have been historically, and currently underrepresented or underserved – are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the policies and practices that impact their lives.

To achieve these goals, we urge you to vote YES on HB 3363-2. Your YES vote on this bill will help create a state-level Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative. Our hope and intention is that the work of this Collaborative aligns with the work of the Governor’s Racial Justice Council.

Membership:

Members of the Collaborative will be students from ages 11 to 18 with a majority coming from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved. At least two members will be appointed from each [Education Service District region](#) in the state.

- In addition, the Collaborative will also be inclusive of students and staff representing: tribal student councils; student leadership organizations; culturally-specific, community-based organizations, including those from immigrant and refugee communities; and alternative education pathways. Administrators, teachers and other school staff who support student leadership in public schools will be added to the Collaborative, as well as opportunity youth and staff who support youth reengagement.
- Members shall serve for a two-year term on the Collaborative, with an opportunity to be re-appointed for up to two terms.

Focus:

The Collaborative will focus on improving educational outcomes for students from racial and ethnic communities who have been historically, and currently underserved -- inclusive of students who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+, are emerging bilingual, and/or are experiencing disability.

Core duties of the Collaborative:

- Examine current state initiatives and practices related to student leadership and engagement in the policymaking process, especially when engaging students from racial and ethnic communities who have been historically, and currently underserved -- inclusive of students who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+, are emerging bilingual, and/or are experiencing disability; and make recommendations for improvements and accountability.
- Explore models and best practices in regional student leadership networks and accountability, including culturally-specific, community-based models and Youth Development Division programs. Make recommendations to the Department of Education, the Youth Development Division, the Legislative Assembly and the Governor's office on how to support student leadership networks on a regional level.
- Evaluate current processes in Oregon to identify best practices for students reporting a racist incident or hate crime. Make recommendations for providing support to students who have experienced racist incidents or hate crimes.
- Report on the Collaborative's work, progress and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor's Racial Justice Council every two years.

Process for forming the Collaborative:

Upon bill passage, the Department of Education shall form an interim workgroup no later than October 1st, 2021. The workgroup will include students and representatives from: tribal student councils; student leadership organizations; alternative education pathways; immigrant and refugee communities; Department of Education and Youth Development Division workgroups; and culturally-specific, community-based organizations. Administrators, teachers and other school staff who support student leadership in public schools will also serve on the workgroup. Utilizing an equity lens, the workgroup will:

- Develop a process for applying to be a member of the Collaborative.
- Create and implement a student outreach and recruitment plan for connecting with prospective members of the Collaborative.
- Review applications for the Collaborative and recommend prospective members of the Collaborative to the Governor.
- Help develop the orientation for members of the Collaborative and identify potential mentors for student members of the Collaborative.

How the Idea of a Collaborative Became a Bill:

In the summer of 2020, students of color were invited to share their experiences with racism in Oregon schools with district and school administrators. During the open Zoom meeting, an intruder disrupted the event by Zoom-bombing. The intruder used a red marker to cross out the photos of the student presenters. This racist Zoom-bombing was extremely traumatic for both the students and administrators. The meeting was immediately halted in order to check in with the students, and address the rupture.

Since then, we (REAP Inc, Oregon Association of Student Councils, Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators, the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators) have been working tirelessly to address the

concerns and solutions raised first by the group of student presenters harmed by the racist Zoom-bombing incident and then with an increasingly larger group of students impacted by racial injustice in Oregon's education system.

Those actions have included: improving digital security for meetings online; increasing equity-focused professional development and training for administrators; and most importantly -- partnering with students to support student leaders, particularly, students of color who have been historically underrepresented and underserved, in shaping our education system, policies, and practices. Our work together led us to engage over 300 students and educators, and many other partners, to help shape the bill before you.

Supporters of House Bill 3363-2

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REAP Inc

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