



February 15, 2022

TO: Senate Education Committee
FR: Morgan Allen on behalf of COASA
RE: Summer Learning Testimony

Good Afternoon Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Morgan Allen and I appreciate the opportunity to share feedback on the Legislature's 2021 investment in summer learning and enrichment programs.

Our superintendents and administrators are excited that the legislature is considering providing similar opportunities and are hopeful that this leads to a serious policy and funding conversation about permanent state support for summer programs.

Our members want the Legislature to know that extended summer learning time and enrichment activities are extremely impactful and important for students. The road to pandemic recovery will be long and we will need as much support for extended learning time as we can get to help students succeed. Expanding this concept from just summer school to after-school (and before school) with longer planning and implementation timelines will help us better serve students.

Positive Impacts of Summer Learning:

School districts report significant positive impacts for their students during the Summer of 2021. Here are just a few examples:

- **From the Vale School District:**
 - 54 Vale High School students recovered 107.5 credits during summer school.
 - 133 K-8 students participated.
 - By the end of the program, 85% of kindergarteners were performing at or above grade level in reading, and 91% were performing at or above grade level in math.
 - Every 5th through 8th grade student demonstrated academic growth in both reading and math.
 - Students were provided with transportation, breakfast, and lunch each day.
- **From the Coquille School District:**
 - Out of 1300 students in Coquille we had almost 600 participate in at least one program and more than 450 participated in multiple summer programs. This was very successful for us. We believe we could have had more students participate if we had more lead time to inform parents of



- what was happening over the summer.
- *“We had three students who had never picked up a musical instrument come to a three-week music program held by our high school band teacher - the three students really just wanted to hangout with their friends - now they are in the pep band and having a great time.”*
- Two purchases that we made that were extremely helpful were a new school bus and a new food service delivery vehicle. Those long-term investments will pay dividends for years to come.
- **From the Tigard Tualatin School District:**
 - Here is a link to a comprehensive report on Summer 2021 programming that includes feedback from parents of students who participated:
[Tigard-Tualatin SB - 2021 Summer Learning Report](#)

Recommendations and Ideas to Increase Support for Students in the Summer of 2022

Most importantly, our members wanted to share some recommendations and ideas for improving and expanding access to extended learning and summer programming for students in the Summer of 2022. The following feedback was consistent across school districts large and small, and urban and rural across Oregon:

Timing and Extended Length for Grant-In-Aid Spending Cycle

- Timing is critical. Districts need to know if there is funding as soon as possible, ideally no later than March. Earlier notice of funding is critical to adequately hiring staff, developing programs, and notifying families.
- Districts would like the ability to spend some of the money year round so they can have staff planning and preparing for summer programming year round.
- Districts also need extended deadlines for procuring materials and completing capitol investments due to supply chain and manufacturing issues. It would be helpful if districts could pivot and use the materials for additional programming throughout the academic year.
- Staffing last summer was a barrier due to an exhausted and overburdened workforce. It was difficult to have a workforce in place that was highly qualified in time to begin. More time for training and allowing the funds to be spent earlier for training and planning. A longer runway is needed. Allowing funds to be spent for some planning and staff all year round would be ideal.

Permanent Funding for Extended and Summer Learning Opportunities

- A permanent funding stream would be a game changer for our students. If



summer school is an annual investment, we need to plan/organize that way. Many districts would add year-round administrative and office staff support FTE to plan for and oversee summer school.

- Funds need to stay focused on staff and development of programs. Goals for sustainability and what summer programs in the future would look like needs to be considered as we move forward.
- Creation of an extended learning grant that may be utilized in the summer, throughout the end of this school year, and through the next year to support before and after school enrichment, tutoring, etc.
- Not all students that need help can attend during the summer months. Districts need to be able to invest not only in summer programming but also additional programming to help students recover academically and emotionally during the academic year.

Increased Flexibility on the Use of Funds

- Allow for social emotional and enrichment services for all K-12 students. Academic recovery for high school students is important, but our high school students need enrichment as well.
- Transportation and nutrition services are essential. Ensure that funds are available for these purposes.
- Districts need flexibility to contract directly with outside agencies, community based organizations and child care providers.
- High summer temperatures were a problem. Districts need to be able to use funds to expand cooling capabilities.
- Allowing for the blending of federal and state funds to provide robust summer school programs would enhance the program and provide maximum benefit to students.
- Need more clarity upfront on capital purchases and what will/will not be approved. Capital expenditures are a great support for current and future enrichment activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information and feedback. Our members look forward to partnering with the Legislature to provide a robust summer program in 2022.