



Vote YES on SB 1521A (District Leadership Stability Bill)



OREGON



Our organizations urge you to vote YES and pass SB 1521A. SB 1521 is a critical and timely bill that is designed to help superintendents focus on providing educational leadership, stability and continuity for our students, staff, and communities without working in fear of losing their jobs over political disagreements.

Leadership stability matters, especially at the district level. Frequent superintendent turnovers within a district can have disruptive effects on organizational alignment and finance, staff morale and retention, and student performance and growth.

SB 1521 is a response to previously unimaginable political circumstances in Oregon over the past two years that have had a chilling effect on other superintendents and administrators, on teachers, and ultimately on students. And right now, there are school boards openly discussing violating the current K-12 masking mandate, which is set to return to local decision making on March 19, 2022. In fact two boards have already voted to violate the masking requirement and violate the law. .

Our superintendents of color and women superintendents are particularly vulnerable in these divisive times. Without basic employment protections, our diverse leaders have shared with us that leaders of color and women leaders will not be drawn to Oregon's superintendent ranks.

Bottom line: Stable leadership is critical for supporting student outcomes. Our leaders should not be subjected to the fear that they can lose their jobs for centering the needs of our students and working to ensure equitable outcomes for our communities – and especially, not for simply following the law.