



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Government Relations**

March 2, 2023

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Portland Public Schools' District Student Council (DSC) is made up of 13 members from PPS high schools who meet bi-weekly at the Prophet Education Center (PEC) prior to PPS Board of Education meetings. Our mission is to lift up and unify student voice within the district, increase student involvement, and facilitate collaboration and interaction between various PPS student groups and PPS leadership. Today, we write to you to advocate for SB 421, the Youth Collaborative Bill.

SB 421 is important legislation that will create a youth collaborative made up of members from each ESD region for geographic representation and diversity, with majority of youth coming from racial and ethnic communities who have been historically, and are currently underserved - and youth identifying as LGBTQ2SIA+, emerging bilingual, disabled, and/or navigating poverty.

Through this bill, youth collaborative members will get to work with different state agencies and advisory committees like the Governor's Racial Justice Council in state level policymaking. These youth members will guide the state in engaging and supporting other youth. This will also be a major opportunity for youth to develop their leadership skills and learn more about how to pass laws and enact change.

As a body of youth leaders who have worked to make decision making accessible to students in Portland. We understand how having a direct and accessible opportunity for students is **essential** in the effort to include youth voices. We are the future, as legislators always love to say. If that is true students need the chance to become the leaders, the people, you want to lead Oregon into the next generation. We hope you see this as not only a chance to include and learn, but also to inspire.

Please support SB 421.

Sincerely, Portland Public School's District Student Council Members.