

Vote YES on Senate Bill 421

A Statewide Youth Advisory Council

Our organizations support Senate Bill 421 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 [SB 421](#). Your YES vote on this bill will help create a state-level youth advisory council. Our hope and intention is that the work of this youth advisory council aligns with the work of the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

Membership:

Members of the youth advisory council will be students from ages 11 to 21 with a majority coming from communities that have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as identified by the State Board of Education by rule. At least two members will be appointed from each [Education Service District](#) region in the state.

- In addition, the youth advisory council 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 youth advisory council, as well as opportunity youth and staff who support youth reengagement.
- Members shall serve for a two-year term on the youth advisory council, with an opportunity to be re-appointed for up to two terms.

Focus:

The youth advisory council 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, disabled, are navigating poverty, or have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as identified by the State Board of Education by rule.

Core duties of the youth advisory council:

- 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, disabled, are navigating poverty, or have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as identified by the State Board of Education by rule; 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 Oregon Health Authority, the Higher education Coordinating Commission, 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 youth advisory council's work, progress and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor's Racial Justice Council every two years.

Process for forming the youth advisory council:

Upon bill passage, the Department of Education shall form an interim workgroup no later than October 31st, 2023. 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 youth advisory council.
- Create and implement a student outreach and recruitment plan for connecting with prospective members of the youth advisory council.
- Review applications for the youth advisory council and recommend prospective members of the youth advisory council to the Governor.
- Help develop the orientation for members of the youth advisory council and identify potential mentors for student members of the youth advisory council.

Supporters of Senate Bill 421

