

Oregon MESA
Maseeh College of Engineering & Computer Science
Portland State University, PO Box: 751
Portland, OR. 97207



March 28, 2023

RE: [SB 1050- Preparing Oregon Educators to Teach Ethnic Studies](#)

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Here at **Oregon MESA**, as members of the Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for SB 1050 - Preparing Oregon Educators to Teach Ethnic Studies. We call the Oregon Legislature to invest in professional development for educators as they implement Oregon's newly adopted Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools.**

Oregon MESA is a state-wide program that provides students underrepresented in the fields of mathematics, engineering, science and technology with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to develop their talents, explore technology-based careers, enter college and compete successfully in the workforce. In accordance with Oregon MESA's mission of bridging the equity gap in STEM fields, **it is imperative that our educators gain the tools needed for culturally inclusive and historically accurate STEM education that follow our Ethnic Studies standards.**

In order to thrive personally and professionally, all students must have the opportunity to connect with their cultural traditions and the works of diverse scholars, authors, and STEM professionals who came before them. Historically underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups founded STEM innovation for centuries, although this history has been ignored and exploited. All students benefit from an inclusive, culturally-affirming, and accessible learning environment that honors the achievements, contributions, and perspectives of these historically underrepresented groups. Educators deserve the opportunity to gain adequate training through professional development in order to ensure this. **Oregon's current and future K-12 educators must be trained and supported to responsibly implement these standards with new lesson plans and instructional materials that are culturally responsive, accessible and meaningfully enrich all students' learning.**

Please vote YES on SB 1050, an essential step toward advancing a more inclusive, equitable, and racially just education system for Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

Oregon MESA

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