



March 30, 2023

Chair Michael Dembrow
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber
Members of the Senate Education Committee

RE: [SB 1050 - Professional Development for Ethnic Studies](#)

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

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 Senate Bill 1050**.

OPEJ represents a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing an inclusive, equitable, racially just, and community-centered public education system for Oregon. **We are proud to support SB 1050, which would provide K-12 educators across Oregon with the training and tools they need to successfully implement Oregon’s Ethnic Studies standards by 2026.**

In 2017, Oregon passed historic legislation (HB 2845) with strong bipartisan support to develop comprehensive statewide Ethnic Studies standards for K-12 public schools. This legislation—the first of its kind in the country—represents an important step toward ensuring that Oregon’s social studies curriculum honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

Now, Oregon has a responsibility to train and support our educators as they implement Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools. While Oregon’s educators can begin integrating Oregon’s new Ethnic Studies standards into their teaching right away, the Legislature directed schools to implement the standards no later than 2026—a timeline designed to give our state, school districts, and educators adequate time to prepare.

SB 1050 will align the implementation date of academic content standards for Holocaust and genocide studies with Oregon’s ethnic studies standards, and support Oregon educators to successfully

implement these new academic content standards. **We urge the Legislature to make a comprehensive \$7 million investment that directs the Oregon Department of Education to develop culturally responsive professional learning content in partnership with impacted communities (\$1.4 million), and leverages the Educator Advancement Council to ensure K-12 educators across Oregon have access to these professional learning opportunities (\$5.6 million).**

We appreciate the incredible work that many community and state leaders have put into preparing statewide Ethnic Studies standards for Oregon, giving all students the opportunity to learn about the unique histories of Oregon’s diverse communities. With meaningful and strategic investment in implementation, Oregon can fulfill the promise of new Ethnic Studies standards: **boosting student engagement, addressing academic disparities, and creating culturally and racially affirming learning environments that benefit all students.**

Please vote YES on SB 1050 to prepare K-12 educators to successfully implement Oregon’s Ethnic Studies standards and Holocaust and genocide studies standards by 2026. This legislation is an essential step toward advancing a more racially just and community-centered education system for Oregon’s children.

Sincerely,

Oregon Partners for Education Justice

Coalition of Communities of Color	KairosPDX
Adelante Mujeres	Oregon Student Voice
Self Enhancement, Inc.	Capaces Leadership Institute
Latino Network	Friends of the Children - Portland
REAP, Inc.	MESA Oregon
FACT Oregon	Children’s Institute
Salem Keizer Coalition for Equality	NAYA Action Fund
IRCO	Central Oregon Disability Support Network
EUVALCREE	Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools
Consejo Hispano	Oregon Business Council
Urban League of Portland	Foundations for a Better Oregon
Stand for Children, Oregon	

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ENCLOSED:

[Oregon Partners for Education Justice 2023 Legislative Agenda](#)
[SB 1050 Informational Sheet](#)