



Board of Directors

April 24, 2023

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Sen. Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Afterschool & Summer Learning Support

Earlier this session, we expressed our support for SB 531, which appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Department of Education (ODE) for summer and afterschool programs. On behalf of the more than 270,000 community members served by Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD), we would like to respectfully request that the Joint Committee on Ways & Means provide funding to ODE to continue the critical services to students outside of typical school hours.

THPRD services over 50 square miles that includes the City of Beaverton and eastern Washington County, and shares a similar boundary with the Beaverton School District. We partner with the school district in many ways to serve our shared stakeholders of over 39,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students and their families. As a park and recreation provider, it is our duty and mission to provide high-quality park and recreation facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities we serve.

Last year, funding from ODE's Summer Learning Opportunities program helped support 10 weeks of summer programs, which included:

- Rec Mobiles, which provided free athletic, artistic, and education programs at local schools (in conjunction with their meal programs), parks, and housing complexes.
- Nature Mobile, a mobile classroom that brings environmental education programs to schools, parks, libraries, and neighborhoods across the district. Staff provide fun, nature, and science learning opportunities and hands-on activities to capture the imagination of young people and help them understand the role of nature in their lives.
- Camp Rivendale scholarships and adaptive equipment for individuals experiencing disabilities. These camps provide support and companionship to both youth and adult participants.
- Scholarships for an additional 738 children to participate in a variety of summer camps - both full and half-day options - that focus on general interests as well as sports, nature, music, dance, drama, and aquatics.
- Additionally, these funds supported the district's ability to provide lifeguard prep classes, volunteer development, increased transportation, and the presentation of a bilingual Safety Town experience.

THPRD strives to make summer programming and enrichment opportunities as accessible as possible throughout our community and dedicated funding to support community-based summer experiences is critical to making that happen. We stand ready to work with ODE to provide an additional slate of enrichment activities for the children within our district during the summer of 2023 and urge you and your colleagues to recognize the importance of meeting the recreational, social, and emotional needs of youth within the state by ensuring that the Summer Learning Opportunities funding continues into 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at a.panas@thprd.org or by phone at 503-816-5804 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicita Montebianco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Felicita Montebianco, President
THPRD Board of Directors

CC: THPRD Legislative Delegation

- Senator Winsvey Campos
- Senator Kate Lieber
- Senator Janeen Sollman
- Senator Aaron Woods
- Representative Ben Bowman
- Representative Farrah Chaichi
- Representative Dacia Grayber
- Representative Ken Helm
- Representative Hai Pham
- Representative Lisa Reynolds
- Representative Nathan Sosa