



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT[®]
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

February 4, 2024

TO: Oregon House Education Committee
FROM: Marisa Fink, EdD, Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
RE: HB 4082

I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of YMCAs, representing 12 YMCA associations serving over 50,000 youth in communities across the state since 1887. We have a long history of partnerships with local schools and school districts.

Oregon YMCAs support HB 4082. We support state investment in places and programs that support youth and families and expand access to resources, opportunities, and relationships that everyone needs to thrive.

Summer programs have strong, positive impacts on the academic and social emotional skills of youth. Summer programs like YMCA day camp and overnight camp strengthen key social-emotional skills. Youth experience growth in key social-emotional competencies such as growth mindset, self-regulation, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and self-confidence. Many community-based organizations like the Y are providing summer learning experiences that elevate what youth have learned in the classroom and give them the keys to further their creativity and exploration. The macro benefits include support for academic success, social emotional development and social determinants of health.

We support the state investment of \$50 million in 2024 Summer Learning Grants. When schools and school districts partner with community-based organizations like the YMCA, we can make those funds go even further by leveraging them for additional grants and contributions. We can't lose another summer without large scale investment in our youth.

We support the creation of a work group to discuss and recommend a high-quality and sustainable state-funded Summer Learning plan. As a member of the Expanding Afterschool & Summer Experiences Collaborative, we support Rep. McLain and Governor Kotek's recommendations on the need to streamline grant administration and reduce administrative burden while also maintaining high standards of accountability.

Thank you, Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, and Vice-Chair Wright and members of the House Committee on Education. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendation and advancing HB 4082.

Oregon Alliance of YMCAs
www.oregonymcas.org

The Y: We're for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.