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Dr. Charlene Williams

Director of the Department of Education

HB 4082: Summer Learning
House Education Committee
February 5, 2024

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Zoe Larmer and I am the Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4082, which will elevate expanded learning programs and further the collaboration needed across the state to effectively administer summer and after school learning grants.

Of the four different grants for summer learning that ODE manages, 85% of the funds are federal funds. The largest chunk of federal funding is 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which serve 19,000 students in district and CBO partnerships. External evaluations show statistically significant gains for students who participated (which includes afterschool and summer) on literacy and math when compared to students who did not participate, as well as increased school attendance. Students who participated in the program also graduated at higher rates and reported higher levels of belonging and safety. We will bring learnings from this research-proven model and others into the implementation of HB 4082.

Currently, there is a national focus on afterschool and summer learning, bringing into focus the need for coordination and funding to lift effective statewide summer and after school programs. ODE is ready and eager to continue this work that began in 2021 and 2022, thanks to significant investment from the Oregon Legislature. In 2021, [House Bill 5042](#) authorized ODE to make available \$195.6 million General Fund and \$10 million Federal Funds in grant funding to participating school districts and public charter schools for academic summer school to support high school students facing academic credit loss, summer enrichment programs, and wrap-around child care. In 2022, the Oregon Legislature allocated \$150 million to support summer learning; \$100 million went to school districts, education service districts, and charter schools while \$50 million was allocated for community organizations.

During this timeframe, Oregon increased its number of students served per year, from 15,000 students funded via smaller federal and state grants to well over 100,000 students. There were also a significant



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number of credits earned toward graduation in 2021 and 2022: 32,603.75 earned by total of 36,649 high school students. This ongoing commitment underscores the transformative power of schools and community organizations working collaboratively, fostering environments where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

To make expanded learning investments successful, there is a need for consistency over time, and programming that is intentionally designed with academics and enrichment. To that end, the Oregon Department of Education is prepared to implement HB 4082 with all expediency, to get funding out the door and ensure districts have enough time and support to ramp up planning for their summer programs. We know from experience and from research what it takes to build effective summer programming that yields results for student learning. ODE stands ready to expedite a quick on ramp for summer learning planning and funding for summer 2024.

Evidence-based practices and research on summer and after school learning show the impact of high-quality programs on increased student academic achievement, engagement, and well-being. In the post-COVID era, this is a pivotal moment for the Legislature to invest in the future of Oregon's children and support our entire educational system's ability to meet the needs of children and families across the state. HB 4082 embodies a strategic approach, immediate funding with a blueprint for lasting impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have. We urge your support of HB 4082.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Larmer

Government Relations Director