



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Dr. Charlene Williams**

Director of the Department of Education

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**SB 1532: Immigrant & Refugee Student Success Plan**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**February 6, 2024**

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

I am Carmen Xiomara Urbina, the Deputy Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), I am here to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB 1532. This bill proposes the implementation of an Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan that aims to provide the necessary support for refugee, immigrant, and/or asylum-seeking students and youth within Oregon's education system.

In light of Oregon's commitment to welcoming refugees, migrants, and immigrants, it is crucial that we address the unmet needs of these communities across various systems within our state. By implementing a specialized Student Success Plan tailored to the unique needs of refugee and immigrant students, we can embark on the necessary technical and adaptive work required to ensure their academic success.

Such a plan would include a range of essential elements to support refugee and immigrant students. It would include translation and interpretation services to eliminate language barriers, providing the opportunity for meaningful communication and understanding. Additionally, it would incorporate wrap-around resources, empowering students and their families with the tools and support networks necessary to thrive in their academic journeys.

Recognizing the importance of outreach, trust-building, and collaboration with community-serving organizations, this Student Success Plan offers a comprehensive approach to meet the multifaceted needs of refugee and immigrant students. By forging partnerships with these organizations, we can tap into additional resources and expertise, ultimately enhancing the support and opportunities available to the students and families.

As our refugee and immigrant students settle in Oregon to either begin or continue their education, it is incumbent upon us to create an inclusive environment that fosters their growth and development. By investing in a Student Success Plan specific to their needs, we not only ensure equitable opportunities but also demonstrate our commitment to upholding the values of inclusivity, diversity, and social equity that are the fabric of our great state.



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Thank you for your attention to this critical proposal, which is an integral part of the ongoing efforts initiated by the Legislature last session. Although the Oregon Department of Education received funding in 2023 to establish positions for the advisory work, the Plan itself has yet to be officially codified. Regrettably, without grant funding from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account, we are unable to embark on the essential task of testing the promising practices aimed at supporting these students. Until this plan is formally adopted in statute, this unfinished business will remain.

I urge you to support SB 1532, as it serves as a meaningful step forward in addressing the educational needs of our refugee, immigrant, and asylum-seeking students. By doing so, we will be empowering these students to fulfill their potential, contribute to our society, and build a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

Carmen Xiomara Urbina

Deputy Director

Oregon Department of Education (ODE)