



PORTLAND  
Public Schools

February 7, 2024

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

Given pandemic learning loss and numerous disruptions to the current school year in Portland Public Schools (PPS), our students require the benefit of additional learning time. The ability for PPS to provide robust summer programming is dependent on additional resources. In light of the March economic forecast, the Legislature has the ability to dedicate resources to ensure school districts are able to provide summer learning opportunities for students across the State of Oregon. We ask for your support for HB 4082, which will ensure a level of additional instructional time for our students who are struggling the most.

Our students urgently need these opportunities, and our window of time to act is closing. As leaders of Oregon's largest district – a district in which roughly 8% of Oregon students are educated – we ask you to fund enriching academic programs for this summer by passing House Bill 4082. **We urge action on this bill as quickly as possible**, in order to provide districts with sufficient time to design, plan, and implement summer programming opportunities for students.

PPS, with a combination of one-time braided funding, has already demonstrated how it can effectively serve students during the summer months. We believe this extended learning opportunity helped contribute to more positive student outcomes at PPS relative to many other districts in Oregon. Thanks to prior Legislative funding, Portland Public Schools offered a constellation of programs and experiences in 2021 and 2022 that both addressed academic needs and provided meaningful enrichment opportunities to over 5,000 students. Instead of losing skills over the summer – which is known as the summer slide – our students grew and benefited from a robust offering of academic programming and enrichment opportunities.

Because the state did not fund summer learning last year in 2023, we had to leverage other limited funds to offer summer programming to just over 4,000 students. We did this because the further students get from the pandemic, the harder it becomes to close gaps in their learning. We cannot

wait for the state to potentially fund these programs each year. **Our students, and school districts, need a dependable source of funding to develop sustainable summer programming.**

Underlining the importance of extended learning opportunities for students, last week, in releasing the [Education Recovery Scorecard](#), Dr. Thomas Kane of Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research called on states to "take leadership" to support "academic recovery efforts, like summer school, high-quality tutoring, and after-school instruction next year." [The Education Recovery Scorecard showed that Oregon is "significantly behind in recovery from pandemic learning loss."](#)

Here in Portland, [we outperformed our state and other regional districts](#). We know our investments in summer learning contributed to these successes. We encourage the state to take note, to take action, and to accelerate students' recovery. The data points are clear: students need additional instructional time to accelerate their academic recovery from pandemic learning losses.

HB 4082 is an important step in providing that additional instructional time. It would target support to our state's persistently underserved youth and families. It would support districts' ability to address the pandemic disruptions and the amplified disparities that have impacted our students. And, in districts like ours, it would also help support our efforts to build a more diverse educational workforce, in partnership with our local community colleges.

We implore you to act now: this is not an investment that can wait until the next session. Waiting and deferring this investment runs the risk of leaving thousands of students further and further behind. We hope, instead, that you will invest in them now by passing HB 4082 with \$50 million in funding for summer learning programs. Thank you for investing in the academic success of Oregon's children and youth.

Sincerely,



Guadalupe Guerrero  
Superintendent



Renard Adams, Ed.D.  
Chief of Research, Assessment, and  
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