



January 22, 2025

RE: Support For the Students See Clearly Act (HB 2992)

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

The Eugene 4J School District Board of Directors unanimously supports the passage of [HB 2992](#) – The Students See Clearly Act, with any necessary amendments to ensure its successful implementation.

Eugene 4J School District had the privilege of César E. Chávez Elementary School serving as a demonstration site with [Vision to Learn](#) this fall. While we were excited for the opportunity to provide additional services for our students, we did not anticipate the need would be so great.

- 1 in 5 of our students at Chávez were identified by the [Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation](#) screening as in need of a comprehensive eye examination.
- 15% of our students needed glasses and received them this fall! Think about the impact on their learning through this school year and beyond if this service had not been in place.

This demonstration clearly articulated the need for the program. The act is designed to complement Oregon's commitment to students. We already have a process to provide vision screenings to identify students with vision challenges. This act makes the critical next step possible for our kids - the eye exam and glasses provided directly at the school, eliminating all access barriers that keep kids from getting the glasses they need



11-14-24: Senator Manning delivers glasses to a student at César E. Chávez Elementary School.

We need this effort scaled-up to cover our entire district and the entire state, even if we need to start small and grow. The act maximizes the amount of federal and private philanthropy dollars available to keep the cost to the state at a low-cost per student estimated at less than \$200 once launched.

The act is modeled off successful efforts in 14 different states, a program that has successfully put 600,000 kids in prescription glasses. With a goal to connect families to their local optometrists (where they exist in Oregon).

This act holds tremendous potential to improve attendance, learning, and self-confidence for our students. In Oregon, an estimated 40,000 students go to school every day without the glasses they need to learn. The leaders on this Committee all know that students who struggle to read in 3rd graders are more likely to drop out of school. This act provides us with an opportunity to change the trajectory for thousands of students today and for generations into the future. I hope you can support of [HB 2992](#) – The Students See Clearly Act.

Thank you for your consideration,
The Eugene 4J School District Board of Directors