

February 3, 2025

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

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, we write to share our full support for HB 2992, the Students See Clearly Act, and we urge the Legislature to pass this critical bill this session.

For the past two years, Portland Public Schools has partnered with Vision to Learn (VTL) to provide vision services to 25 PPS schools, serving students across all grade levels, from elementary to high school. Vision to Learn offers a comprehensive range of services, including vision screenings, eye exams, and the delivery of eyeglasses, all conveniently provided onsite. These services are especially valuable to families who may already face challenges accessing and navigating healthcare services.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to offer these critical services to our students. At Lane Middle School, for example, 341 students received an eye screening. Of those, 90 students were referred for an eye exam, and 76% of those students ended up receiving glasses this year. So far, over 800 students across Portland Public Schools have received glasses through Vision to Learn. Without the services that VTL provides, schools would not have the resources to identify and address students' specific vision needs, which could significantly affect their ability to succeed in school.

Statewide data shows that an estimated 40,000 Oregon children in need go to school each day, unable to see clearly. We must change this and ensure that all students have access to the vision care they need to read a book, study math, and fully participate in the classroom.

At PPS, we are committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to become a confident and skilled reader. We know that students need access to support inside and outside of the classroom to be most successful. We urge you to support HB 2992.

Thank you,

Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong Superintendent,

Portland Public Schools

Éddie Wang

Chair,

PPS Board of Education