



March 3, 2025

Senator Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, I urge you to support **SB 1098**, which will prohibit discrimination based on the race, religion, ability, country of origin, sexuality, or gender of the individuals featured in the content of educational and library materials in K-12 public schools in Oregon.

At PPS, we are committed to empowering lifelong learning and connection through reading! Literacy is the foundation for learning and growing. It helps students develop the skills to read, write, and communicate clearly, opening doors to opportunities and giving them the confidence to succeed. Literacy is essential for understanding new ideas, solving problems, and participating fully in our community. It also encourages critical thinking, sparks creativity, and helps students connect with others through shared knowledge and stories.

Allowing all children to have access to diverse, high-quality books is **essential** for building a strong foundation for lifelong learning, opportunity, and engagement. Every child deserves the freedom to explore books that inspire them, challenge them, and help them see the world—and themselves—in new ways.

SB 1098 will protect students in our state from book bans and ensure that our students have access to books that inspire them to be successful, lifelong learners. Please support SB 1098.

Thank you,

Lisa Merrick
Senior Manager, Government Relations
Portland Public Schools