



March 10, 2025

Rep. Courtney Neron, Chair
House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

My name is Sarah Pope, Executive Director of Stand for Children Oregon.

I am here today to express deep appreciation to Governor Kotek for her leadership and commitment to accountability in education, and the legislators (including Chair Neron & Vice-Chair McIntire) who served on her office's recent accountability work group.

The Governor's dedication to ensuring that our students have the resources and support they need to succeed is evident in this legislation.

Stand for Children is in strong support of [HB2009](#), which makes critical strides in improving Oregon's education system by prioritizing intervention, directing resources where they are needed most, and holding systems accountable for student success. I am particularly encouraged by several key provisions:

- **Mandatory and faster intervention timelines** ensure that struggling schools receive support before challenges become crises.
- **Directing resources effectively** will allow schools to target interventions where they will have the greatest impact.
- **Accountability measures in the incentive fund** ensure that investments lead to measurable improvements in student outcomes.
- **A strong focus on math and attendance**—two areas that are essential for academic success and long-term student achievement.

By prioritizing these elements, this legislation takes an important step toward improving student outcomes and closing persistent achievement gaps. A system that intervenes early, directs resources strategically, and ensures accountability is one that will better serve all Oregon students, particularly those who have been historically underserved.

Which is why the Governor's leadership on connecting education funding and spending to get strong educational outcomes is so critical.

Prior to Measure 5 and Measure 50, the connection between funding and spending was much tighter because school districts relied (to the tune of 70%) on their local communities for funding. However, after M5 and M50 and the state became the primary funder of education, that accountability mechanism was severed. Instead, Oregon relied heavily on the federal government's accountability system. However, in 2015 when ESSA was reauthorized it gave states more flexibility and authority over K-12 education. Oregon did not have a strong



state level accountability system in place and our student outcomes have been steadily falling.

I urge the Committee to support [HB2009](#) and advance this critical work. Thank you for your time and leadership on behalf of Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Sarah Pope
Executive Director, Stand for Children Oregon