

March 10, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair Emily McIntire
Vice-Chair April Dobson
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: HB 2009 – K-12 Accountability

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson, and members of the House Education Committee.

As members of the <u>Oregon Partners for Education Justice</u> (OPEJ), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2009.

OPEJ represents a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing an inclusive, equitable, racially just, and community-centered public education system for Oregon. We are proud to support HB 2009, to build upon and improve evidence-based measures of student success, strengthen state support and interventions in struggling school districts, and deliver better outcomes for all students.

Oregon has provided much-needed increases in public education funding, yet academic outcomes of Oregon students remain among the worst in the nation. To drive meaningful change, the Legislature must ensure that our significant public dollars are directly advancing student success. As we seek to close the achievement gap between the State of Oregon and other states, we must also close achievement gaps that have persisted for students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.

HB 2009 will advance a promising plan for K-12 investment, improvement, and accountability by ensuring the state has the authority to provide targeted supports to school districts, and

steer resources toward the kinds of evidence-based curriculum, programs, and practices that support children's learning. These are critical steps to accelerate improvement and ensure school districts who struggle the most are bolstered, not punished. We need to remain focused on delivering a quality education for all, especially children who are not getting what they need to learn and thrive from the current system.

With the current uncertainty around federal funding, **now** is the time for Oregon to be clear and resolute: accountability means that student success isn't left to chance. There must be shared expectations and a system of support in place to deliver quality learning and experiences regardless of student identity, zip code, or circumstances.

We urge the committee to support HB 2009. This legislation is an essential step toward advancing a more just education system for Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

## **Oregon Partners for Education Justice**

Adelante Mujeres Latino Network

Arts in Education of the GOrge NAYA Action Fund

APANO Oregon Business Council

Capaces Leadership Institute Oregon Coalition of Community Charter

Center for Black Excellence Schools

Children's Institute Oregon MESA

EUVALCREE Project LEDO

Friends of the Children - Portland REAP, Inc.

Foundations for a better Oregon Self Enhancement, Inc.

IRCO Stand for Children, Oregon

KairosPDX Urban League of Portland

## **CONTACT:**

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ENCLOSED: Oregon Partners for Education Justice 2025 Legislative Agenda