



March 10, 2025

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

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, I write to you in support of HB 2009, a policy to strengthen Oregon's education accountability system.

Accountability is fundamental to continuous improvement in our education system. I know that all the stakeholders writing about this bill have a shared commitment to seeing our students succeed and thrive. As an education leader, I am all in for **shared** accountability, with meaningful and effective **support and investments** in place.

PPS echoes many of the areas that COSA and OSBA have surfaced to strengthen this bill. We must ensure that ESDs and school districts have the right support in place to drive improved outcomes for our students.

- We call on the Legislature to ensure that ODE has the internal capacity and alignment to provide high-quality, consistent, and timely support to districts.
- We also want to ensure that ODE is working with districts and ESDs to streamline grants and reporting requirements to focus on what needs to be in place to support continuous improvement for students. There is currently a significant administrative burden on school districts to access new grants. It is important for the state to reduce this burden so that staff members can use their precious time to support improving outcomes for students.

We also must take into consideration the role that education funding plays in improving outcomes for students. Next year, PPS is facing a \$40 Million budget deficit that will require the district to cut necessary student-facing programs that bolster student success. Accountability and full funding for our schools are not mutually exclusive. In fact, real accountability requires investment. The American Institutes of Research (AIR) report on funding in Oregon, found that Oregon needs to spend far more per pupil to achieve better reading and math results. This study says that a typical school needs about 33% more funding per student to give every child a shot at academic success, or about \$3 billion above planned spending levels.



We can—and should—demand better student outcomes while also ensuring that school districts have the resources and support necessary to achieve them.

Thank you,

Gary Hollands,  
Director, Zone 5  
Portland Public Schools  
Board of Education