



To: Chair Neron and all the members of the House Committee on Education

Re: Comments on HB 2007

Date: 3/19/2025

Latino Network was founded in 1996 by advocates for the needs of the growing Latinx community in Multnomah County. Since then, these grassroots beginnings have evolved into a continuum of services that support Latinx individuals, families, and communities. Our programs currently focus on education, advocacy & leadership, health & wellness, economic justice, youth empowerment & violence prevention, and arts & culture, engaging nearly 11,000 community members throughout Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties in the last year. We are the leading culturally-specific provider for Latinx youth, parent, and family services in the Portland area with the goal of serving the nearly 19% of Oregon's population who identify as Latinx or Hispanic.

Latino Network currently provides direct services to youth and families in Senate Districts 13-15 and 19-25 and House Districts 25, 28, 29, 37, 40 and 42-50.

We deeply support the state investing in summer and afterschool programs for youth across the state. Over the last several years Latino Network has been able to increase partnerships with school districts and state agencies to deploy high quality and impactful programs that keep youth engaged during the summer, put their learning to work and increase a sense of community, safety and belonging in their schools so they keep coming back.

We appreciate the legislative leadership in bringing HB 2007 to address very real needs in our communities. We do believe HB 2007 is missing some vital components necessary to be successful. We know well the academic needs of students we are working with every single day, and based on our experience we need to take comprehensive approaches that meet students where they are, connect on an individual level and continue to inspire a lifelong love of learning - an approach that believes only academics matter will not be meaningful for the students who need an academic intervention the most.

HB 2007 is clearly looking to introduce more rigor by layering requirements for longitudinal tracking, pre and post evaluations and a highly targeted enrollment approach - all of which are administrative duties that are not eligible expense for direct service costs. However, this bill contemplates extremely limited spending for administrative duties. A 5% limit communicates that staff should expect to spend less than 2-hours per 40-hour work week on these tasks, as well as completing financial compliance obligations. This is simply not a realistic match between funding allowed and requirements imposed. Consider aligning with the federal standard de minimis.



HB 2007 lacks an understanding of the importance of including families in a young person's learning journey. Especially when it comes to literacy, family engagement is a major mistake. Oregon's own [Early Literacy Framework](#) - "The framework is designed around eight sections that work in reciprocity with one another to help reinforce culturally responsive practice and reading science as fundamental to children's literacy and biliteracy development." Devotes an entire section to family and community engagement, the importance of including families in the activities to reinforce new reading practices at home, to put programs in community based settings before and after school to make reading more accessible and familiar; and ultimately something fun and desirable.

We should support schools to fully implement the State's framework including the provisions in Section 2, rather than asking them to delete these efforts from their plans to comply with the grant. Doing so feels counteractive to the (very appropriate) requirement that programs be evidence-based and use research-aligned literacy strategies. From section 2:

Across almost every facet of literacy development, support and collaboration with families, tribes, and community-based organizations strengthens student literacy development and serves as accelerators for student success. When planning how to support early literacy [K-5], it is important to consider questions such as, "How do we leverage the skills, capacities, and strengths within our community as we design learning experiences that meet the needs of our learners?" and "How might we support parents and caregivers as essential partners in their children's literacy learning?" Dearing et al., 2004; Cronan et al., 1999

Please amend HB 2007 to add back components that are inclusive of family engagement and encourage partnerships with community based organizations. Expand to afterschool investments alongside summer learning, and reconsider what administrative rates are realistic for the requirements imposed.

And please be aware, especially if the hope is that a different funding source will cover the things this grant program excludes, we are seeing dramatic declines in city park and recreation funding for summer and afterschool programs partnering with schools. We are seeing the SUN community schools proposed budget in Multnomah County also seeking to cut out parent engagement and family support, eliminating most of the early learning components while school budgets also have less. David Douglass and Reynolds School Districts are at high risk of losing significant capacity for this work.