

Submitter: Carla Gay  
On Behalf Of: our future  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

We must adequately fund our public schools in Oregon. There are multiple reasons, personally and for the general public.

Personally, my whole family and my children have benefited from public education in Oregon. My father graduated from high school and college in Oregon in the 50's, my mother taught elementary school in the 60's, my wife and I have worked in public education in Oregon since the 90's, and both of my children have attended Portland Public Schools their entire education. We have benefitted enormously despite shrinking bottom line relative to the needs of the system. We have been fortunate; buffered by our existing economic, racial and educational privilege.

Unfortunately many students have struggled to benefit from public education due to the failed promise of leveling the playing field. Without adequate funding that keeps the pace with the local and state economy, we will continue to see more people left out of the economic promise of upward mobility from education.

We must ensure we have an adaptive system that consistently funds our schools where all children can have their academic, social and emotional needs not only met but exceed their greatest potential. Three great outcomes of such funding are:

**Skilled workforce:** Oregon's economy depends on having a skilled workforce that is academically and socially prepared to keep our economy strong, now and in future generations.

**Educated and engaged population:** All students need and deserve an education that meets their academic, physical and social needs.

**Safe and inclusive communities:** Education is shown to reduce crime, good schools are shown to increase property values, and education is one of the best investments legislators can make in the future of their state