

Submitter: Alana Kinarsky
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education:

I am writing to urge your support for a substantial increase in funding for Portland Public Schools in the upcoming budget cycle. As a concerned PPS family, I believe that robust public education is a critical investment in our collective future. Without adequate funding, our schools are forced to make impossible choices about which student needs to prioritize.

Democrats have long campaigned on the promise of strong public education. However, democrats cannot continue to champion public education while simultaneously underfunding the very institutions they claim to support. Oregon has the opportunity to demonstrate that Democratic values aren't just campaign slogans—they're actionable priorities reflected in our budget decisions.

Portland Public Schools has experienced declining enrollment in recent years, creating a troubling cycle. As funding decreases, program quality suffers, causing more families to leave the public system, which further reduces funding. This exodus is not inevitable—it is a direct response to chronic underinvestment. With robust funding we can reverse this trend and see families coming back to our public schools.

Our children deserve educational environments that support their diverse needs and prepare them for future success. Our community deserves schools that reflect our values and priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. Please do the right thing - fund our public schools adequately!

Alana