



LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

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EQUITY    COMMITMENT    LEADERSHIP    COLLABORATION    INTEGRITY

March 25, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez; Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz; and members of the joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education:

The superintendents of the school districts in Lane County are writing to urge you to support fully funding recovery high schools at the \$12.7 million requested by the Oregon Department of Education. Lane County is one of at least three other regions that is ready to open a recovery high school.

On behalf of the sixteen school districts in Lane County, Lane Education Service District has established a partnership with the Friends of Lane County Recovery Schools (FLCRS). Working together, we have located a facility and have secured funding for a planning administrator to ensure that we will be able to open a recovery high school in September of 2025. The facility, offered by PeaceHealth and the planning administrator, provided by money from the Lane Community Health Council (the CCO board for PacificSource), demonstrates the important connections we have made with local health care entities.

This connection with health care is vital as students in recovery schools need a highly specialized approach to education that requires recovery plans, recovery specialists, mentors and coaches. While the additional support needed is costly, this investment saves taxpayer money. Due to a reduced need for repeated treatment, reduced risk of emergency room visits, and reduced risk of criminal activity, estimates show that for every \$1 spent on a student in a recovery high school, \$3 to \$7 is saved in the long run. This is a savings of \$16,000 to \$152,000 per student.

The educational benefit for students is also impactful. Students in recovery high schools show significantly improved attendance and graduation rates. All sixteen Lane County school districts have expressed support for a recovery high school in our region. Our students, families and communities are counting on your support to fund recovery schools at the full \$12.7 million. Thank you for considering this request and for your important and challenging job of doing what is best for the state of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Tony Scurto  
Superintendent  
Lane Education Service District