

Submitter: Fisher Troy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3941
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee:

As Superintendent of St. Paul School District, I urge your support for HB 3491, which directs the Oregon Department of Education to establish a grant program for community schools.

Community schools offer a proven, equity-centered approach to building great schools—schools that meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of every student. They strengthen teaching and learning, integrate health and social services, expand learning opportunities, and foster strong family and community partnerships. In short, they create the conditions where all students can thrive.

This model is grounded in research. Studies from the Learning Policy Institute and RAND Corporation show that community schools improve attendance, achievement, school climate, and graduation rates—particularly for historically underserved students.

HB 3491 supports a system where accountability is shared, and the responsibility for student success rests not on individuals alone, but on schools and systems to create supportive, inclusive environments. It gives districts like mine the resources to build stronger school–community partnerships and address root causes of inequity. Our students deserve more than fragmented interventions—they deserve schools built on purpose, connection, and opportunity. HB 3491 moves us toward that vision.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Oregon's future.

Sincerely,
Dr. Troy Fisher, EdD
Superintendent, St. Paul School District