



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OREGON ALLIANCE

House Committee on Education: Testimony on HB 3941

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs McIntire & Dobson, and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, I'm honored to submit testimony in support of the incredible potential of the Community School model to help our youth and families succeed.

Across Oregon, 13 Boys & Girls Club organizations are reaching over 40,000 youth through 47 Clubhouse and school-based sites helping ensure that young people, especially those who need us most, have the opportunity to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

For many years, Boys & Girls Clubs have worked as partners alongside schools, and we've seen firsthand the invaluable role that community partnerships play in supporting children, families, and entire communities. The Community School model is a perfect example, placing a dedicated person in the school whose primary job is to ensure that students and families have the resources and support they need. We can free up educators to focus on what they do best—helping students make academic gains.

Community school coordinators can play a critical role in managing not only the academic needs of students but also their basic needs, behavior, and attendance. With these coordinators in place, schools can build stronger partnerships with local organizations—organizations that bring decades of experience in providing high-quality programs that teach youth essential skills. These partnerships are vital, as schools can't meet every need of students, especially when community organizations are already deeply connected to underserved families.

An essential element of the community school model is providing a reliable, accessible space where families can access resources, care, and support they need. This model ensures continued access to services, helping families navigate challenges like mental health issues, substance abuse, and meeting basic needs in tough economic times.

Community Schools excel at engaging families and creating a network of support around students. [Research](#) clearly shows that play, curiosity, social interaction, and agency are key components that motivate students to learn, helping them grow into well-rounded individuals.

This legislation offers an exciting opportunity to advance a comprehensive, whole-child approach that addresses the academic and social needs of students while also supporting their families. By acknowledging the vital role of community partners, we can take steps toward creating an environment that fosters success for all Oregon youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to work together in exploring ways to scale up the Community School model and better serve our youth and families.

Sincerely,

Bethany Thramer, Director of Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

<https://oralliancebgc.org/>