

5/7/25

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

My name is Nicole Scheidler and I am submitting this letter of support for the Siletz Valley School Revitalization and Safety Improvements project. We are a K-12 charter, which means of the provided state school funds, we automatically have 20% of our funds held back by the district (by rule, whether or not a district takes the money is a choice and not required by statute). We are hard working, proud of who we are, what we want to accomplish, and we need your help. We want to provide our children a place to learn where they feel safe, comfortable, and excited to learn.

Currently, classroom heating is either on or off, and requires each teacher to radio the facilities staff to turn it off when it gets too warm. There is no Air Conditioning in the building (except for three small classrooms in the annex). The lights in the gym are old and if a light is broken, we will have to close the gym due to hazardous waste concerns from the light fixtures. The gym bathrooms are not accessible to our elders and those in wheelchairs and we want to upgrade them as soon as possible. There are no dedicated science labs, and pipes are broken in several classrooms. There are holes in siding that allow wind and rain into several buildings. The roofs leak, and internet access is sporadic and make uninterrupted state testing sessions a challenge. Staff and students want and need safety upgrades like stronger classroom doors and locks that prevent unwanted and unsafe actors from entering our school and classrooms. We have, thanks to our culinary program, a portable kitchen to feed our community in case of a catastrophic event, but without a generator, we cannot keep our children safe and warm as they await reunification with their families.

Funds for maintenance and upgrades are hard to come by, keeping the aging building operating takes all of our facilities dollars. We have waited a long time to be able to improve our school which is a central part of our community. We want more for our children and we need your help. This is why we are asking you to support our request.