

RE: Outdoor School Is Essential Education — Support HB 4112

Dear Legislators,

Please reject further cuts to Outdoor School. Support HB 4112 to restore \$6 million in funding.

Outdoor School is not just enrichment or a “nice to have” benefit. It is essential education.

There is a backdrop of the Moda Center about to get \$600 million. It is appealing to keep the Blazers and enhance the dwindling Portland and State economy to benefit the approx. 20,000 who attend games, those who cheer without tickets, and the businesses affected. So too is giving approximately 32,000 different Oregon children a year the outdoor, confidence and opportunity education through Outdoor School.

Let’s stop being the state that keeps decreasing education for our kids. Self-worth and confidence are only the first of many things of our kids that will take a hit if they see our state supports sports instead of them. As adults, we know the Moda Center is an economic health move in addition to “keeping the Blazers” but they won’t viscerally see that. We can have both. If the state funding the Moda center went to a vote, it is very likely it would not pass. This recently happened for a beloved baseball team in Eugene. The Eugene team was here for 70 years – Trail Blazers 55 years. Even so, the voters couldn’t stomach the cost in \$ and the proposed location. More Oregon voters support our children’s education than sports teams’ requirements.

In 2016, Oregonians made a clear decision when 67% of voters approved Measure 99, establishing Outdoor School as a statewide educational commitment funded through the State School Fund. Oregon has returned to its roots as a national leader in outdoor education – thanks to both voter intent and bipartisan legislative support.

Please uphold the will of Oregon voters by *returning* the past \$6 million cut in funding.

Please support HB 4112 and ensure Outdoor School remains a core component of public education in Oregon.

In Gratitude,

Victoria Robinson

4-Her, Past Outdoor School Counselor, Career Biochemist, Emergency Guest Teacher during COVID, Parent of 3 kids who completed public school locally, 6th generation Oregonian
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