

RE: Outdoor School Is Essential Education — Support HB 4112

Dear Legislator,

I'm a long-time Oregon resident, parent, and outdoors enthusiast, I am writing to urge you to reject further cuts to Outdoor School and support HB 4112 to restore \$6 million in funding.

Outdoor School delivers outcomes Oregon students need, particularly at a time when our K–12 system is under immense strain.

Outdoor school is part of what makes us Oregonians! In addition, it builds science literacy through hands-on, standards-aligned learning. (I'm a Physics professor, by the way.) And, it strengthens social-emotional competence, confidence, and belonging.

Things you already know:

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 since become a national leader in outdoor education, a distinction that reflects both voter intent and bipartisan legislative support.

Last year, Outdoor School funding was cut by 20%. Programs across the state are still absorbing those losses. Additional proposed cuts of 2.5–5% would further undermine access, equity, and program quality, particularly for students and schools that rely on Outdoor School the most.

The Legislature has the opportunity to uphold the will of Oregon voters by holding Outdoor School harmless from further cuts and restoring \$6 million.

I urge you to support HB 4112 and ensure Outdoor School remains a core component of public education in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Raghuveer Parthasarathy

Professor of Physics, The University of Oregon

Eugene, OR