

MARGARET DOHERTY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35



Superintendent Karen Gray
Parkrose School District
10636 NE Prescott Street
Portland, OR 97220

June 16th, 2017


Dear Superintendent Karen Gray,

Thank you so much for writing to me. I strongly support the Oregon Education Investment Initiative, and I too am optimistic about securing the \$8.4 billion in funding for our Oregon schools.

As a former public school teacher and product of the Portland Public School System, myself, I understand the grave importance of securing the most adequate funding for our schools. Our State's budget reflects our values in good times and bad, and the value of a comprehensive education for Oregon students should be viewed in the highest respect. This past week, I rose in support of a structured revenue investment for our schools, by pointing out that some of the same pitfalls that appear in our educational framework today, also appeared 14 years ago and for decades and decades before as noted in an article appearing in a 2003 issue of the Oregonian. Issues such as inadequate property tax dollars, and the drastic impact of Ballot Measure 5 in the 90's can be directly compared with the patchwork education budget we are working with today. The last thing Oregon schools and their surrounding communities need, are larger class sizes, staff cuts, the shortening of school years, and a reduction of additional programs. This would not best serve students, and instead, would hinder their success.

The Legislature finalizes the budget after months of public input, and the input of each of you is greatly valued. I am sure you're aware that this week during the Joint Committee on Tax Reform, we heard strong support from a variety of avenues for a business tax reform package that will finally add stability and better funding to our schools. While securing the Quality Education Model for our students is certainly ideal, my focus is on securing a budget with no cuts, to maintain the high caliber of Public Education Oregon is providing to its public-school students today. In insuring the \$8.4 billion budget, I am confident that Oregon students will be receiving the kind of comprehensive education they deserve, while keeping staff positions intact and additional programs funded.

Please know I am working every day to make sure we appropriately fund education. I look forward to continuing this conversation, and encourage you to write to other Legislators in the state.

Thanks again and please stay in touch on this and other issues of importance to you.

Best regards,



Representative Margaret Doherty