



# Oregon Department of Education

Kate Brown, Governor

Salam A. Noor, Ph.D.  
Deputy Superintendent  
255 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97310  
Voice: 503-947-5600

January 22, 2016

Dr. Karen Fischer Gray  
Parkrose School District  
10636 NE Prescott  
Portland OR 97220

Dear Dr. Karen Fischer Gray:

On behalf of Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon State Legislature, I am inviting you to serve as an advisory group member for the African American/Black Student Success Plan as outlined in House Bill 2016.

The African American/Black Student Success Plan Advisory Group will provide the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and other education partners with specific strategies for developing and implementing the work of House Bill 2016. This bill directs the Oregon Department of Education to convene an advisory group to provide advice on the development and implementation of a statewide plan for African American/Black students who are in early childhood through post-secondary education programs by examining academic and culturally appropriate best practices in this state and across the nation.

The plan will provide strategies in all indicators of academic success for African American and Black students: address the disproportionate rate of disciplinary incidents; increase parental engagement; increase the engagement of students in educational activities before and after regular school hours; increase early childhood and kindergarten readiness; improve literacy and numeracy levels between kindergarten and grade three; support student transitions to middle school and through the middle and high school grades to maintain and improve academic performance; support culturally responsive pedagogy and practices from early childhood through post-secondary education; support the development of culturally responsive curricula from early childhood through post-secondary education; increase attendance of plan students in community colleges and professional certification programs; and increase attendance of plan students in four-year post-secondary institutions of education.

An implementation timeline has been developed for this legislation:

**October 2015: Convene Advisory Group**

**December 2015: Progress Report Due to Oregon Legislature**

**February 2016: Submit 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Report to the Oregon Legislature**

**April 2016: Award grants to implement strategies developed in plan**

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Given the historical importance of this endeavor and this ambitious timeline, I am personally requesting your experience and expertise on this advisory group. It will require a commitment from you, but is one that will have a lasting impact on the lives of African American/Black students and families for generations come.

Future meeting dates are as follows:

Friday, December 4, 2015  
Friday, January 8, 2016  
Friday, February 5, 2016  
Friday, March 4, 2016  
Friday, April 1, 2016  
Friday, May 6, 2016  
Friday, June 3, 2016  
Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Friday, August 5, 2016  
Friday, September 9, 2016  
Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Friday, November 4, 2016  
Friday, December 2, 2016

All meetings are scheduled from 9am-2pm  
and will be held at ODE in RM 251A&B