

Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon 900 Court Street NE, Suite 254 Salem, OR 97301-4047 April 10, 2020

Governor Brown,

Oregon's 580,000 K-12 students only have one shot at this school year. We cannot delay in our efforts to support their education with innovation, leadership and clarity of purpose.

We are calling on you to dedicate the one-time education funding from the CARES Act to immediately take important temporary steps to support student learning, this year:

- 1. Consult with distance-learning experts and invest in student and teacher technology gaps. By consulting with existing distance learning providers the state can ensure that schools have the technical and curriculum expertise they need for teachers and students to succeed in this new environment. Investing one-time federal funds in broadband and technology allows the state to deliver distance learning equitably to all students and teachers.
- 2. **Give graduating seniors the opportunity to continue to learn and earn a credible diploma.** Students must be given the opportunity to complete creditable distance learning/education courses whether they were on track to graduate in the new pass/fail system or not. Honor their years of hard work in their K-12 career by allowing all willing students to complete their senior year with the achievement of a full diploma. Simply giving a pass/fail grade denies students the opportunity to learn the remaining material.
- 3. Ensure equity through state-level responsibility for high needs students. Bolster existing teams to provide students with unique needs targeted support. Students who are homeless, in our foster system, disabled, pregnant and English language learners will need the reassurance of these already established teams of experts and teachers working together to ensure their unique needs are met. Creating equity under a distance learning model across all districts and all students is imperative for our most vulnerable students.
- 4. **Establish clear guidelines for all high school students.** Clear guidelines for all high school students on the credits they will receive this term and how those credits will be counted toward future graduation requirements is important for all students. This is particularly important for AP and IB courses. These courses help families reduce the cost of a college education.

5. **Plan for summer school.** Funding expanded summer school programs gives students who need extra help-and those needing additional enrichment-access to rigorous and relevant education to help them succeed in their next school year.

With one-time federal dollars and a bipartisan commitment to new investments and innovation, we can provide students the certainty the rigorous and relevant education they are entitled to in this uncertain time.

Sincerely,

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan