

## OFFICE OF SENATOR KAYSE JAMA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2024

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## Student Success Plan for Immigrant and Refugee Students Approved by Oregon Senate

**SALEM, OR** – Today, a bipartisan coalition of Oregon Senators passed <u>Senate Bill 1532</u>, which creates a statewide Student Success Plan for Oregon immigrant and refugee students.

The Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Plan would be developed and implemented by the Oregon Department of Education, in collaboration with a diverse advisory group that would include students and families who are immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, and education and community partners.

"I am proud to live in a state that welcomes immigrants and refugees," said **Senator Kayse Jama (D-East Portland)**, chief sponsor of SB 1532. "For our immigrant and refugee neighbors to live up to their full potential, we need to support them throughout their resettlement journey. This begins in our schools, where we must equip every student and educators with the tools they need to succeed. SB 1532 is a step forward to ensuring all Oregonians are set up for success in their education and beyond."

SB 1532 also forms an Immigrant and Refugee Student Success Grant Program, which allows early learning hubs, early learning providers, school districts, education service districts, higher education institutions, tribal governments, and community-based organizations to apply for grants.

"The education system can be stressful and complex for many students and families to navigate," said **Senator Michael Dembrow (D-NE Portland)**, chair of the Senate Education Committee. "When you combine that with the struggle of resettling in a new country, it is no

surprise that students who are immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers face academic disparities. SB 1532 will help students to adapt to their new homes and schools and thrive in Oregon."

SB 1532 will build off the success of Oregon's five existing Student Success Plans for: American Indian and Alaska Native students, Black or African American students, LGBTQ+ students, Latino and Indigenous students, and most recently, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.

Providing all Oregonians with a high quality public education is a key pillar of Senate Democrats' <u>Uniting Oregon Agenda</u>. The bill now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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