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Senate adopts funding for visionary teacher mentorship program

Chalkboard Project priorities will boost student achievement

Salem, OR – The Senate passed House Bill 2506 Thursday morning, a bill containing funding for innovative teacher training and support programs pushed by the Chalkboard Project. The bill, which funds a series of programs implemented in House Bill 3233, passed 22 to 8.

“No one impacts classroom learning like teachers,” said Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro). “These groundbreaking efforts will give teachers the support, mentorship and training they need to be successful in the classroom. I believe these initiatives will have a tremendous long term impact in the lives our students.”

The initiatives funded by HB 2506 will implement the Quality Teaching and Learning Network. Among the projects funded:

- A mentorship program for every new teacher and administrator in Oregon, including implementation of an innovated and tested model for teacher preparation. The model addresses recruitment and selection, classroom experience, hiring and placement, and mentoring of new teachers. Over the next decade 33% of Oregon’s teachers will be new to the classroom.
- A program to help districts develop and implement improved systems for evaluating teacher performance in the classroom.
- Establish a statewide network of high-quality professional development and support opportunities.

“These groundbreaking efforts are the result of years of study, research and hard work,” said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). “It is this type of innovative thinking that will help prepare our kids for success in tomorrow’s economy. I’m excited about the potential of these programs and believe this is one of the most important things we can do for the future of education in Oregon.”

House Bill 2506 now goes to the Governor for approval.

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