

**From:** [Claudia Andrews](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Support The Student Success Act  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 16, 2019 5:00:35 PM

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I submitted testimony for the prior bill. Since the bill has changed, here is my updated testimony.

As a Centennial School District Board Member, I see first hand how the underfunding of Oregon's Schools has been effecting kids. It's disgraceful. We consider ourselves a progressive state and we have left our kids (and future adults) in the dust. Centennial's facilities are in desperate shape. Teachers are overstretched. They need relief. We have a large population of students in the Centennial District who are homeless or otherwise significantly underprivileged. We need adequate funding to deal with 21st Century problems in the 21st Century.

At the board meeting last week we had the opportunity to hear from a kindergarten teacher with 27 kids in her class and several of them have significant social problems. 18% of students in the district qualify as special needs students. She is barely able to teach anything. We need significant investment in early childhood education to help ease the transition to kindergarten and smooth out some of the most egregious behaviors. She reminded us that the state of Oregon requires a ratio of 1 to 15 for child care for 5 and 6 year-olds. Why do we allow a lower ratio in the classroom? We need assistants and other staff to improve the learning environment throughout the district. Please help.

You likely have seen the following info already, but it doesn't hurt to repeat.

- o We've been underfunding our schools and shortchanging our students for decades. The time to act is now, and this is a landmark opportunity to do so.
- o HB 3427 would give our students the resources they need and the high quality education they deserve.
- o The Student Success Act would create fairness in our tax system for the benefit of Oregon students. It prioritizes protecting small businesses, while also providing needed revenue for our schools and students.
- o With measures to ensure funds are being spent wisely, HB 3427 is an accountable way to finally provide critical revenue for Oregon schools.
- o This transformational investment in our schools will mean lower class sizes, increased graduation rates, expanded CTE programs and safer schools through more social-emotional learning.
- o Please vote Yes for The Student Success Act.

We are in this together! Claudia Andrews, Member Centennial School Board