



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"  
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March 21, 2013

Rob Saxton, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Oregon Department of Education  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0203

RE: Oregon's School to Prison Pipeline

Dear Superintendent Saxton:

We are deeply concerned about Oregon students' educational gaps and, in particular, the negative impact of disproportional discipline associated with race and ethnicity in Oregon public schools. This component of the achievement gap, the school house to court house track, needs to be eliminated. ODE has worked to change this current system in a specific and powerful way by making discipline data more accessible to policy makers and the public, but the challenge of change does not depend on transparency alone. Shifts in thinking, adaptation and collective problem-solving continue to be the path to fulfill our moral purpose of making a difference in the lives of students. A strategy is needed to avoid the result of false starts.

Please create an education subcommittee--that includes students, parents and community--to develop a strategy to eliminate the Student Discipline Gap.

Sincerely,

Dr. Isaac E. Dixon, Chair

Cc: Dr. Rudy Crew, Chief Education Officer  
Dr. Doris McEwen, Deputy Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Nancy Golden, OEIB Chair

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