

May 9, 2014

Oregon Board of Education  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0203

**Allan E. Goodman**  
PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

To Honorable Members of the Oregon Board of Education,

I write as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of International Education in support of efforts by Dave Porter and Portland Public Schools to create a pilot high school study abroad program sending Portland Public Schools high school students to study in China and Mexico.

The Institute of International Education (IIE) is a private nonprofit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. For close to 100 years, we have led efforts to expand opportunities for Americans to study abroad, including through the U.S. Department of State's flagship program, the Fulbright Program, which we administer on their behalf. We believe that peace and prosperity in the 21st century depend on increasing the capacity of people to think and work on a global and intercultural basis. As technology opens borders, educational and professional exchanges open minds.

IIE supports expanded opportunities for high school students to study abroad. Our recent Generation Study Abroad initiative is a five-year effort to mobilize resources and commitments with the goal of doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade. IIE is investing \$2 million in the initiative and seeking funds to provide scholarships to college and high school students and grants to institutions. The initiative, which is timed to coincide with IIE's centennial in 2019, will highlight IIE's commitment to study abroad and encourage purposeful, innovative action to get more Americans to undertake a meaningful international experience through academic study abroad programs, as well as internships, service learning, and non-credit educational experiences.

I understand that Oregon's largest local school districts, Portland Public Schools, is considering a pilot proposal to pay for sending six high school students to study abroad for the school year 2015-16, that they need a ruling on their receipt of State School Funds from you to make the proposal financially viable, and that the issue will be on your June 19-20 Board agenda.

I cannot comment on the technical and legal issues surrounding the use of your State School Fund, but I can stress the importance of finding ways to send more Oregon high school students to study abroad. Please find a way to get more Oregon high school students studying abroad. It would be good for the students, good for Oregon, and good for the United States.

Sincerely,



Allan E. Goodman  
President and CEO  
Institute of International Education  
New York, New York