



**MEMBERS**

X	Angela Uherbelau		Jennifer Wilson		Nelly Patiño-Cabrera
	Aryn Frazier	E	Jimmy Howard	E	Sandra Yokley
X	Cynthia Richardson	E	Lyn Tan	X	Shazia Abdulla
X	George Mendoza	X	Lizette Aguero	X	Sonya Moody-Jurado
X	Jaclyn Caires Hurley	X	Marie Chisholm-Burns		
	Jennifer Simonson	X	Mark Jackson		

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

	Andre Bealer	E	Johnna Timmes	X	Yasmin Solorio
X	Rachael Moser	X	Javier Cervantes		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Rep Ruiz Discussion	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meeting starts at 1:04pm. Members provide introduction and welcome new members, Lizette Aguero and Shazia Abdulla.</i></p> <p><b>Cynthia:</b> There is a template for the members I'd like to send to get input from everyone.</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> We will make sure to look at that before the end of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Angela:</b> Rep. Ruiz is the co-chair of BIPOC Caucus and a member of other committees. Have had conversations with him in the past as part of the Education Committee. Hopeful to have him speak with us on how Oregon counts poverty with the school funding formula. Just want to share why we are hoping he talks to us.</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> We try to meet with people who are decision makers and providing insight from experts in the field on items impacting communities of color for vulnerable populations in Oregon.            How should we prepare the Representative to engage? What should the Representative be prepared to discuss? What do we want as an outcome of the conversation? What is the ask of the Representative?</p>	

**Angela:** Asking Rep. Ruiz why he and another legislator introduced legislation to change funding formula. What did he and others see with what's wrong with how Oregon counts students in poverty and the implications of that. Oregon is one of the only states that use that. There was strong pushback on the bill and for him to give us understanding on why that happened. Would like to hear if BIPOC Caucus has items to share on what they are working on.

**Rachael:** SB 1555

**Javier:** What do we want as an outcome for the conversation?

**George:** Funding to be fair and proportionate before using a census that doesn't have really good information regarding our current needs in our communities related to poverty. Would rather them use Small Area Income Poverty Estimate (SAIPE) before or a certification method – a hybrid of a census and direct certification. If you're doing state reports, for a poverty calculation you're using a federal one that is outdated and rural areas often don't turn those in.

The places that deserve those resources should be getting them long term. We shouldn't be suffering because the state chose a mechanism or model. Would rather them talk about how to make it right or transition so it's fairer. To get it right is more important than to keep a flat system.

**Mark:** Want to share expectation when we ask legislators that they understand the intent that things are done at the racial justice lens. Would like to see how he will partner with Salem-Keizer on the formula or intend to align with those messages to ensure there's a clear understanding of what we're hearing from.

**Javier:** Expectations are good to level set as we move forward. Next question is what is the "ask"? Sometimes we go into these conversations during legislative days without asks. We want them to know what we want from them. Would ask the committee what is your ask – what do you want him to leave with. What's important for him to understand to work on in regards to equity and racial justice in the space of education.

**Sonya:** Inclusion and opportunity. All of us work in different aspects of education. Being able to hear from the people that this legislation is impacting, so we can take that messaging and people can support that legislation. It has to be a two-way street, not just be reported to. Just more inclusion from more groups like ours.

**Cynthia:** He needs to have an opportunity to hear how the decisions impact the problems they're dealing with and take suggestions on how to improve it.

**George:** If we have a structural problem with how we're doing calculations, the ask for me is to fix the calculation so it's adequate and up to date so it's in alignment with communities. If you're only using census, then start to use SAIPE data or certification. Make it fair to the need of the community. That's my biggest ask. It will create outcomes fairer, more proportionate, or equalized.

**Javier:** It will probably be a 30-minute conversation. If there are other ideas with how to engage Rep. Ruiz, please share those ideas.

**Rachael:** June 15-18 are legislative days.

**Cynthia:** Rep. Ruiz is not alone. We are here to help.

**George:** I love the idea of our legislators and the Governor meeting with Superintendents to discuss our funding and financial needs and solutions. I do want to say they don't spend much time with Superintendents. They spend a lot with family, institutions and parents but not much with Superintendents.

Agency Selection

**Javier:** Agency selection process will be in June. The meeting will be a two-hour meeting to have enough time to hear from agencies. We polled you all to select from the list. Top results were Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Dept. of Early Learning and Care (DELIC). There was a third agency, Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) as well as the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD).

Quite frankly we will only have a certain amount of time and recommend only two. What do you want

to hear from them? What do we want as an outcome for their organizational budget?

**George:** Always interested in what ODE has to say and how they are using funds and what they're preparing for. Very inserted in DELC and what their focus is. After that higher education. Anything with HECC. Those are my biggest three.

**Javier:** What should they know from this committee and what should they present to you?

**Marie:** HR1 will put impact on higher education, especially grad plus loans. There's a gap to what a student can pay and the cost of attendance. Things like nursing and teaching – not being able to borrow that money will have an impact on everything. Elimination of grad plus loans, loan limits (happening July 1<sup>st</sup>) – when I look at the class, it will be very homogenous and will be made up of people who can pay outright. I know that's at a different level at foundation and groundwork, will impact how far our kids will go.

**Javier:** In that vein, Rachael, do you have a sense of Policy Option Packages (POPs) out there and foundation point for building their budgets? My understanding is it starts off with a Legislative Concept (LC) and develops into POP for us to develop into an Agency Budget Recommendation (ABR) that turns into the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) at some point when we can lock it all in at some point.

**Rachael:** Given current landscape, the direction to agencies has been to have limited POPs and anything that can be new or expanding programs to think of it from a net neutral. What I've seen for ODE to date has been limited and projects around accountability. That's likely what you'll hear from ODE. Haven't seen DELC or HECC's.

**Javier:** We will have to dial in; thought will be to leave it to the committee but the two will likely be ODE and DELC.

**George:** What superintendents worry about is Special Education (SPED) funding. It's been 11% funding cap for 30 years or longer. Most school districts are around 18-20% students getting SPED services. High-cost disability has been around \$55M

pool of funds. 9 years ago, we were reimbursed at 55%, now we are at 22%. Getting less dollars for high-cost disability. Another that needs to be reformed is online school. Online school has needed reform over the years. They get the same amount of money for online funding. To me it's a significantly poor use of resources by our state. They are doing de facto vouchers – they give money back to the family and incentives teachers to teach online – it needs significant reform. Especially if we want to claw back money.

HB141 and accountably. If we want greatness with reading and math but we are reducing teachers and programming. If there was money to pay for tutoring and intervention... we need resources to do those things. We need help with funding. And probably need tax reform or generate resources to solve the problem.

**Angela:** It's hard when agencies and programs come to us – we are lacking context sometimes. Having been on the Racial Justice Council (RJC) Education Committee, sometimes the information we're given is the shiny information. We need to know the gaps. What ODE has authority over, and issues we have raised in this meeting – when we talked about the poverty weight – the gentleman from ODE admitted they have ability to change the poverty weight but they just won't. If we could have clarity around where power lies, can the Governor do an Executive Order (EO) on these things, for example. Who has the authority for these decisions we're asking for?

**Javier:** Going back to POPs, do we know if we have insights around expectations or feedback that RJC wants to integrate with agency budgets? When do we have a sense of knowing that stuff around POPs.

**Rachael:** Agencies have been working over the last month or so to pull together their ideas. Sometimes there's an overlap but not always. They are going through a first-grade review. Don't think agencies have had opportunity to engage widely yet. If its an interest to the committee, it can be an initial entry point with current landscape on what they have at the moment. That can be good entry point for June discussion.

**Javier:** Melinda Gross has talked to us to on these conversations. Going back to long session, the Student Success Grants got lumped together and it

has a dramatic impact. Mark, you had been vocal that these were dramatic impacts for how organizations do the work.

**Mark:** Procurement, follow up, impact on agency. We have to change the reimbursement model. With state agencies contracted with organizations. We have to change the administrative rules. Was that a legislative process or rules process with DAS.

**Javier:** Should be articulated with those agencies. The more they hear it the better solution we can come to.

REIS/Process Outline

**Javier:** Will provide a quick outlook of what the summer looks like. We will have these conversations with the agencies in June. After that we will have a follow-up conversation with feedback on POPs, and items you're raising. We're asking how they are incorporating that in July. Then we will go into August to start thinking about budget and Agency Recommended Budget (ARB) that will lead into the fall that will evolve into the GRB. GRB is finalized by December.

Knowing the constraints we are in, we have to be realistic on things – there shouldn't be new asks for the most part. The REIS presentations will be in June and how the decisions are impacting racial justice equity.

**Angela:** Heard the Governor say she would be open to feedback on what programs might be cut. To your point we are in a space where we don't have excess of anything – wondering if our committee can be brainstorming a racial justice lens on proposed cuts and with education. If there are areas not meeting outcomes or meeting a racial justice lens. Just being mindful in some of those things.

**Javier:** Good information as we go forward.

**George:** Whether its cuts or reductions – online school should get 60% not 100%. If that 40% was given back – we are being asked to give back 30 hours of conference time and professional development time. That's around 7-8 days of instruction. Theres a cost to those changes. The state has to be creative in those types of ways to apply resources. We don't have 10% more to pay our staff.

	<p><b>Javier:</b> That’s the kind of solution people need to hear. As we report out, Mark and Cynthia, for RJC on Thursday, that would be good to include.</p>	
<p>Priorities</p>	<p><b>Javier:</b> Highlighting previous priorities. Would ask you to check out these priorities going forward.</p> <p><i>Javier screenshares “Recap of education Committee Priorities 2026”</i></p>	
<p>Template</p>	<p><i>Yasmin shares “RJC Committee Co-chair report out Template”</i></p> <p><b>Javier:</b> What do you want the RJC to contribute as part of the conversation.</p> <p><b>Cynthia:</b> Want to make sure I hear from our committee on what they want us to share at the Racial Justice Council on Thursday.</p> <p><b>George:</b> The cost of educating an online vs brick and mortar. And accountability. We have 990 hrs to educate a student. Do they do 990 hours – don’t believe so. We have a variety of hours, and my point is they’re not the same. Want us to focus on the value of our resources being used appropriately for graduation and completion rates. It’s a significant misuse of funding. We need to have options like online but there needs to be more accountability by ODE. HB 141 accountability for school districts will get a lot of attention. What is ODE doing for implementation.</p> <p>Reading and math achievement should be moved up to 52-54%. We have opt out of state testing. When we have kids opting out, we have a state test people aren’t sometimes taking seriously and are using that to determine if kids are successful.</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> What do we want to hear about DELC?</p> <p><b>George:</b> How effective is early learning and are students being on level or more ready? How do they partner with schools and families.</p> <p><b>Shazia:</b> DELC makes it harder to get a certification – so many hoops for small in-home care center, hard to be certified and get care in. So many littles coming in with behavior and support needs. We look to DELC to be resource for us, and they are unable to</p>	

be part of that conversation. Support for mental health and resources would be good thing, reducing hoops so home daycares can operate sooner to provide care for children.

**Cynthia:** Thankful people are opening up. We have to make needs known to get the help we need. So important.

**Mark:** Appreciate our new members to the committee.

*Meeting ends at 2:04pm.*

## Meeting Materials



Recap of Education  
Committee Priorities



RJC Education  
Committee Co-Chair

## Zoom Chat

13:03:34 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

- Rep Ruiz Discussion
- Agency Selection
- REIS/Process Outline
- Priorities

13:04:13 From Lizette Aguero to Hosts and panelists:

Hello everyone, I am looking forward to collaborating with you all.

13:07:09 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

- Rep Ruiz Discussion
- Agency Selection
- REIS/Process Outline
- Priorities

13:12:53 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Everyone:

Rep Ruiz Discussion

- Agency Selection
- REIS/Process Outline
- Priorities

13:14:19 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Everyone:

What should the Representative be prepared to discuss?

What do we want as an outcome of the conversation?

What is the ask of the Representative?

13:14:38 From Yasmin Solorio, She/her (Gov Office) to Hosts and panelists:

Just emailed the template to everyone

13:15:08 From Shazia to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you!

13:18:31 From Rachael Moser to Hosts and panelists:

Angela, confirming related to SB 1555 - which was around adequacy of funding?

13:21:40 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

Could we send articles as background on the poverty weight and funding to the full committee including these?

<https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2025/05/oregons-school-funding-formula-undercounts-poverty-denying-some-districts-millions-lawmakers-are-poised-to-approve-it-anyway.html>

13:23:26 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.wweek.com/news/schools/2026/04/07/study-finds-oregons-high-poverty-districts-at-a-disadvantage-in-education-funding/>

13:23:47 From George Mendoza to Hosts and panelists:

Fix the structural problem with use of correct data; We should create a system that is accurate to the needs of communities; Using Census only is not adequate; Need to develop a hybrid model and needs to have ramp up process for change to fair and adequate model.

13:24:24 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

I agree with George. Here's another article on part of the backlash to changing the formula: <https://www.oregonjournalismproject.org/the-oregon-education-association-is-mighty-but-slipping>

13:25:43 From Marie Chisholm-Burns (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:

Perhaps we should come prepared to provide solutions to the problems - this way the conversation will be more direct. Just a thought?

13:26:38 From Yasmin Solorio, She/her (Gov Office) to Hosts and panelists:

2026 Meeting Dates for Education Committee

May 18, 2026 (1-hr only)

June 22, 2026 (2 hr mtg)  
July 27, 2026 (1-hr only)  
August 24, 2026  
No meeting for September  
October 26, 2026  
No meeting for November  
December 14, 2026

13:26:54 From Shazia to Hosts and panelists:

Are early learners part of this conversation as well- the 0-6 learners

13:27:30 From George Mendoza to Hosts and panelists:

I love the idea of our legislators and Governors meeting with Superintendents to discuss our funding and financial needs and solutions.

13:31:10 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

Shazia, good question. It's my understanding that Oregon undercounting students in poverty for school funding impacts K-12 only but I'm sure Rep. Ruiz would be happy to talk about early learners

13:43:54 From Marie Chisholm-Burns (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:

Who has the authority, context, timeline, etc - (what Angela said): perhaps when we have a request, or building a case for a request we should utilize a format that outlines whose authority, brief context, significance of problem, possible outcomes to improve, etc

13:46:33 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

I love that Marie. And Co-Chair Jackson thank you for raising the reimbursement issue. I thought that Betsy from DAS told us that the deliberate delay in paying invoices was going to be changed. I hope that's true.

13:52:20 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

I also don't see the Educator Advancement Council producing the outcomes for students or educators that justify the millions spent there

13:59:50 From Marie Chisholm-Burns (she/her/hers) to Hosts and panelists:

Sorry, I have another meeting at 2pm so I have to go. Nice seeing everyone.

14:01:20 From Angela Uherbelau to Hosts and panelists:

I do think elevating to RJC that Oregon can't continue to deliberately undercount our students in poverty - it's a moral issue and a racial justice issue

14:01:47 From Lizette Aguero to Hosts and panelists:

How are we serving our BIPOC communities in headstart or any early learning program? What sped programs are we providing or mental health services.

## Recap of Education Committee Priorities, 2026

Priority Area	Work in 2026	Status	Next Steps?
Messaging the Fiscal Impact of Cuts School District	Met with Legislators in 2026	Shared concerns of the changes within the Student Success Grants. Shared issues outlined in the 2025 Advocacy Letter	
Accountability	Heard Overview of the Cluster Groups or Similar Sized Districts as it relates to metrics	ODE shared general overview of accountability work.  ODE convened an accountability group that focused on implementation. The group arrived at five practices to implement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High quality learning experiences</li> <li>2. Aligned and focused educational systems</li> <li>3. Engaged partners and communities</li> <li>4. Safe and inclusive schools</li> <li>5. Committed and supported staff</li> </ol>	
Kept informed of bills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HB 4022—Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Program to provide a free book each month to eligible children, encourage children to develop a love of reading and learning and improve school readiness, third-grade reading proficiency and high school graduation rates.</li> <li>2. HB 4050— Requires the Legislative Policy and Research Director to study processes to align educational funding with educational costs.</li> <li>3. HB 4057— Directs the Department of Early Learning and Care to provide standardized information on all publicly funded early learning and care programs and resources</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HB 4022—(Signed by Gov)</li> <li>2. HB 4050—(In committee upon adjournment.)</li> <li>3. HB 4057—(Signed by Gov)</li> <li>4. <u>HB 4149</u>—(Signed by Gov.)</li> <li>5. HB 4154—(Signed by Gov.)</li> <li>6. HB 4079—(Signed by Gov.)</li> <li>7. SB 1538—(Signed by Gov.)</li> <li>8. SB 1581—(In committee upon adjournment)</li> </ol>	

	<p>available in this state to people who apply for or are placed on the waitlist for the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program.</p> <p>4. <u>HB 4149— Directs school districts to adopt policies that provide for immediate enrollment, school placement and provision of services to homeless students.</u></p> <p>5. HB 4154— Requires the compilation of data about students who are regular attenders or who are chronically absent.</p> <p>6. HB 4079 – Safeguarding Students and Families</p> <p>7. SB 1538— Right to Education Regardless of Immigration Status</p> <p>8. SB 1581—School Meals for All</p>		

**Other work items for the committee in 2026:**

- Poverty Weight Formula Discussion: Looking to be well informed to determine what direction advocacy should take going forward.
- Priority Setting and REIS Process/Budget Discussion
- Federal Updates ie immigration (see above)

**Possible New Priorities:**

“Multilingual OSAS (State Assessment System)- Currently OSAS (Oregon State Assessment System) only offers the large-scale summative assessment in English. However, Oregon has a history of offering a Spanish assessment under the OAKS system. This ended roughly 10 years ago when the Common Core entered the landscape as did SBAC (the test measuring the common core).

Test scores influence public decision making at every level, yet our assessments are linguistically invalid for the fast-growing segment of the k-12 system in Oregon—Multilingual Learners. As such, my recommendation is to push for a Spanish-SBAC (for starters).” --Jaclyn Caires-Hurley

## RJC Committee Co-Chair Report Out Template

Please feel free to use the following template as guidance to assist you during the Committee Update portion of the agenda at next week's May 21<sup>st</sup> RJC meeting.

<b>RJC Meeting: May 21</b>	<b>Notes</b>
For the benefit of the new RJC members, what is your name & RJC Committee you co-chair?	Cynthia Richardson and Mark Jackson <b>Education Committee</b>
Who are the agencies the committee selected to present and engage?	Oregon Department of Education Department of Early Learning and Care
Share what you hope the committee learns from the agency presentation and Edu Committee engagement.	
Ask the RJC members: what might the RJC want to know of the agencies during their committee engagement?	
Ask the RJC member: are there any priority areas you see the committee should consider?	

### Previous Priorities:

- Messaging the Fiscal Impact of Cuts to School Districts
- Accountability
- Keep informed of bills impacting education

### Other work items for the committee in 2026:

- Poverty Weight Formula Discussion: Looking to be well informed to determine what direction advocacy should take going forward.