



May 16, 2013

Chair Artemio Paz, Jr.  
State Board of Education  
Oregon Department of Education  
255 Capitol St NE  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Chair Paz and Members of the Board,

We applaud the significant efforts of the Oregon School Report Card Steering Committee. Their efforts will provide more meaningful insight into the performance of our public schools and school districts. This is challenging work and we believe that the new report cards are evolving in the right direction.

The proposed report cards provide a significant amount of information to parents and community members to help them understand the successes and challenges of their schools. Including a greater level of detail about student improvement and comparisons to similar schools is a good step towards making school performance more transparent and easily understood.

We were also pleased to see the attention given to the importance of a diverse teacher workforce. Requiring districts with substantial minority student populations to publish a statement regarding their strategy for racial equity in hiring will bring needed attention to the issue and will hopefully push districts to implement meaningful changes to their hiring practices.

The importance of a diverse and effective teacher workforce should continue to gain prominence in the redesigned report card. While we appreciate that teacher and administrator proficiency measures are on the list of future recommendations, there must be a plan to make these measures a reality. With the implementation of new educator evaluation systems, by the 2015-16 school year these measures should be fully included in school and district report cards. Research is clear that teachers have the most significant impact on student learning in the classroom and this needs to be reflected in the Next Generation Report Card.

Finally, we are excited about the developing work with the Oregon Department of Education on the supplemental website version of the redesigned report card on the Open Books Project website. We look forward to the role Open Books can play in making the redesign report cards easily accessible and user-friendly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue Hildick".

Sue Hildick  
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