

Date: October 22, 2015  
To: Oregon State Board of Education Members  
From: Dr. Wei-Wei Lou, Legislative Liaison for Oregon Council of Title III (ESL) Directors  
Re: First Reading: English Language Learner Revenue & Expenditure Report Criteria/ OAR 581-023-0250

My name is Dr. Wei-Wei Lou. I am a first generation immigrant and my two children grew up in Beaverton as English as a Second Language learners. I've been an ESL administrator for over 10 years, and have recently retired. My current role is the legislative liaison for the Oregon Council of Title III (ESL) Directors. I am also a member of the ELL budget workgroup.

So far, our ELL budget workgroup has developed "**uniform budget coding requirements**" but not "**uniform reporting requirements**." I believe we need to review ORS 327.103 (1)(c)(A)(ii) so that our group understands our responsibility to identify what activities should and should not be coded as ESL spending.

It is really important for us to develop clear codes and reporting requirements so that ESL spending is transparent and easy to identify. As a retired ESL administrator, I know that school districts must have clear direction from ODE on what activities and programs should be coded as ESL spending.

**HB 3499 requires us to develop "uniform reporting requirements" to provide budget transparency for the spending of moneys received by school districts as provided by ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(ii) for students in average daily membership eligible for and enrolled in an English language learner program under ORS 336.079 that requires school districts to implement special English courses for ELLs to teach speaking, reading and writing of the English language from kindergarten and each grade level until these children are able to profit from classes conducted in English. [1971 c.326 §3; 1993 c.45 §77]**

The current ORS has not provided detailed directions to ensure that ELLs benefit from such funding. For instance, the cost of translation and interpretation services for all language minorities, including ELLs, should be paid for by the general fund because many parents who speak another language are no longer parents of active ELLs. The current ORS has general vague language that has not worked and will not work unless we develop explicit directions based on clear criteria.

As a retired ESL administrator, I strongly urge the State Board of Education develop guidance for school districts in regards to the criteria for how to code ESL spending. Developing criteria to identify what programs and activities should or

should not be paid by ESL weighted funding is crucial, in addition to a clear code in our PBAM. A code is only as good as what goes into the criteria that each district uses to collect and report the data.

I would like to remind all of us of the urgency in implementing a transparent budget system and an accountability framework that address the needs of ELLs. We have an opportunity to make significant improvements for the academic achievement of English language learners in the State of Oregon. We have a responsibility to do right for ELLs. Your leadership is greatly appreciated.