

OREGON PARTNERS *for* EDUCATION JUSTICE

VOTE YES ON HB 4112

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ETHNIC STUDIES IN OREGON

The Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ) call on the Oregon Legislature to invest in professional development for educators as they implement Oregon's newly adopted Ethnic Studies standards in K-12 schools.

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed a landmark Ethnic Studies standard with bipartisan support to ensure our K-12 education system honors and integrates the rich and unique histories, contributions, and perspectives of traditionally underrepresented ethnic and social minority groups.

Now, Oregon's current and future K-12 educators must be trained and supported to responsibly implement these standards with new lesson plans and instructional materials that are culturally responsive, accessible and meaningfully enrich all students' learning.

By investing in professional development opportunities statewide, Oregon educators can fulfill the promise of Ethnic Studies:

- **BOOSTING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**
- **ADDRESSING ACADEMIC DISPARITIES**
- **CREATING CULTURALLY AFFIRMING AND ACCESSIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT BENEFIT ALL STUDENTS**

Successfully implementing Ethnic Studies is an essential step toward a more inclusive, equitable, and racially just education system that graduates more Oregon students who are better prepared to live, work, and thrive in a diverse world.

"Students of color need and deserve opportunities to learn about the unique histories that inform their own identities. They find connections with authors, scholars, and other voices who look like them. Through Ethnic Studies, educators can support our youth to gain insight into the past, the present, the future, and themselves."

WEI-WEI LOU, APANO

"Oregon's Ethnic Studies standards can support educators and students to recognize the systemic inequities and oppression experienced by historically marginalized ethnic and social groups, including youth with disabilities. Investing in professional development will give educators the tools they need to teach Ethnic Studies, interrupt racism and ableism, and create equitable schools that are inclusive and welcoming for all students."

CHRISTY REESE, FACT OREGON

OREGON PARTNERS *for* EDUCATION JUSTICE

Oregon Partners for Education Justice (OPEJ) is a cross-cultural network of community-based organizations, culturally specific service providers, and education advocates who are championing a racially just and community-centered public education system for Oregon. We believe in the vision, wisdom, and leadership of impacted communities, and advocate for equitable policies and investments that eliminate disparities and empower historically underserved children.



Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality



CENTRAL OREGON Disability Support Network



FRIENDS OF OPEJ

