

We thank Governor Kotek, Attorney General Rayfield, and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Williams for answering our call for a decisive, courageous, and clarifying response to the April 3 demand from the United States Department of Education.

The April 3 letter attempted to use nearly 1.5 billion dollars of federal funding for Oregon's students as leverage for compliance with new federal requirements. This demand was a test of Oregon's commitment to our values and our expectations for a good government. Your response modeled the leadership we need and made us proud to be public education leaders in Oregon.

Superintendents understand and accept change: it is part of our daily work. We know that the federal government can change regulations and the law. However, we expect our government to make changes lawfully, explain the change with clear guidance, and provide a reasonable timeline for change. In the case of the April 3 letter, the US Department of Education did none of these things.

In our districts, we welcome, protect, respect, and teach every student without exception. Your decision affirms and supports our commitment to our students.

Kimberlee Armstrong, Portland Public Schools, Superintendent
Gustavo Balderas, Beaverton School District, Superintendent
Andrea Castañeda, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Superintendent
Bret Champion, Medford, Superintendent
Steven Cook, Bend La Pine Schools, Superintendent
Colt Gill, Eugene School District 4J, Superintendent
Shay James, North Clackamas School District, Superintendent
John Koch, Gresham Barlow School District, Superintendent
Travis Reiman, Hillsboro School District, Superintendent
Iton Udosenata, Tigard-Tualatin School District, Superintendent
Krista Parent, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, Executive Director