

Education

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By Anne Nesse, Education Policy Portfolio

Senate and Joint Ways and Means in Education Gives Us News of Hopes to Come!

An excellent hearing was presented with Sen. Frederick speaking about a new type of literacy curriculum coming next year from the education committees. Sen. Frederick states that we recently have become more aware of some basic understandings that should be required reading and study in all our schools. This reading and curriculum could help to assure increased acceptance of all differing races, and particularly black Americans. These understandings would help to strengthen our democracy in Oregon, and democracies all over the world. If you are interested in just one of the choices in this curriculum for your summer reading, Sen. Frederick particularly recommends the book, “Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents”, by Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Joint Committee on Ways and Means in Education admits the state’s failures

Lengthy hearings were held in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in Education on the difficulties Oregon students face to successfully complete workforce training, community college classes, and university degrees. It was determined by HECC Directors, as in years past, that our goals were NOT being met. We have: 1) outdated software that needs replacement, 2) LOW completion rates (67%) of our whole

postsecondary education system, and 3) approximately 52-67% of our students experience some degree of homelessness during their experiences (as well as other difficulties that arise in their lives), while they are attempting to earn a postsecondary education. [SB 5528](#) and [HB 2093](#) are what is proposed for partial solutions this year. In our future, both Sen. Dembrow and Sen. Frederick hope to meet higher education goals with more success. Perhaps following the model of Washington State funding, using some degree of corporate taxes for postsecondary education.

Early Childhood Education Committee finalizes plans for Statewide Pre-School (based on the family's ability to pay, not to exceed 7% of income) by 2022

[HB 3073](#) with a -3 amendment, plans for a statewide preschool program that will go to the Rules Committee to help draft the final -4 amendment to this complex law.

Volunteer?

We are seeking 3-4 more volunteers. Early Learning, Child Care, K-12, Higher Education, Career Technical Education, and Youth Development are within this portfolio's responsibility. Contact Chris Vogel, or Anne Nesse