

ED #3: Oregon State Grange “Promise of Oregon” Support

- Whereas: This state's children constitute "The Promise of Oregon" (promiseoregon.org) through their potential as thinkers, leaders, and caretakers of their generation and the future; and
- Whereas: We believe funding a strong system of public education is the best investment Oregonians can make to strengthen our economy, create thriving communities and improve the quality of life for every Oregonian; and
- Whereas: We support a well-rounded curriculum that meets the needs of Oregon's students, including: art, music, physical education, career and technical training and co-curricular activities; and
- Whereas: We must ensure that efforts to close the academic achievement gap and supports for students who have been historically underserved are expanded; and
- Whereas: Oregon's public schools have experienced a prolonged period of unstable and inadequate funding that has resulted in dire consequences: teacher and staff layoffs, program cuts, unacceptably large class sizes and one of the shortest school years in the country; and
- Whereas: The Legislature has made progress and reinvestments in K-12, but that funding momentum is fragile due to looming cost increases related to health care and PERS (Public Employees Retirement System); and
- Whereas: Oregon's political leaders have codified an ambitious "40-40-20" goal (40% have a Bachelor's degree or higher, 40% have an Associate's degree or

higher, and 20% have at least a high school diploma or equivalent) for our education system to reach by the year 2025, requiring significant financial investment to attain; and

Whereas: The case must be made to Oregon's voters that the Legislature needs to prioritize investments in a full school year for every student in every district and modern, safe school facilities in every community in our state; and

Whereas: School Board members need to help shoulder the responsibility for making the case to Oregon's voters that investments must be made so that every child has the opportunity to become a responsible and productive citizen of our state. Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Oregon State Grange join and support the efforts of "The Promise of Oregon" campaign to ensure that Oregon's lawmakers continue to prioritize investments to improve the educational outcomes for Oregon's greatest natural resource: our children.