

# The Youth Collaborative

SB 421 (2023)



## Overview of the Collaborative

Currently, Oregon does not maintain a student or youth majority-led advisory body advising policy-making related directly to their experiences. The Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority, and Youth Development Division have all committed to elevating racial equity and justice issues that affect the experiences of Oregon's youth and students, including but not limited to BIPOC, LGBTQ2SIA+, emerging bilingual, and/or youth or students with disabilities. However, representation in these spaces oftentimes, unintentionally, exclude student and youth voices – overshadowing, overlooking, or tokenizing their perspectives or experiences.

To help change this dynamic, our organizations — REAP Inc., the Oregon Association of Student Councils, the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators, and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators — have co-designed and co-developed the youth collaborative Bill. The bill would create a state-level youth collaborative. The goals of this collaborative would be to:

- Support diverse youth leaders in the policy-making process at the state level
- Work to ensure that youth — particularly youth who have been historically, and currently underrepresented or underserved — are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of the policies and practices that impact their lives.

### → 2021 Legislative Session

A broad coalition of student leaders, community partners, and education advocates come together for [HB 3363](#). The bill passed out of House Education with unanimous support, but never received a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee.

### → 2022 Legislative Session

The coalition joins together again and with some edits to the legislation to make it even more inclusive, [HB 4099](#) was introduced. The bill passed out of House Education again, but once again did not receive a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee.

### → 2023 Legislative Session

Moving into the 2023 Legislative Session, Senator Dembrow has committed to carrying the work of the youth collaborative bill that began with House Bill 3363, now introduced as Senate Bill 421. We are devoted to accomplishing the goals of this initiative while continuing to be open to improvements. [You can find the current LC draft here.](#)



COALITION OF  
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