



PRODUCTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Educators across Oregon are seeing a rise in serious student behavioral issues and disciplinary challenges which are resulting in difficulty maintaining productive learning environments for all students as well as physical injuries to other students and educators.

These behaviors have a variety of root causes including, but not limited to, large, unmanageable class sizes, family traumas caused by the Great Recession, and exposure to technology.

While changes to disciplinary policies such as recently passed exclusion and restraint laws and prohibitions on the use of suspension and expulsion for students under grade five are not a cause of the behavioral issues, they have exposed a glaring need to provide educators with more tools to respond.

Adequate funding in order to provide these supports is the most important solution. We must provide districts with the resources to reduce class sizes, hire more support staff, school counselors and psychologists, provide safe spaces for students, and provide better reporting and training.

To that end, OEA is supporting passage of:

- **HB 2651** to make class size a statewide mandatory subject of collective bargaining.
- **SB 363** to implement a statewide study of safety and classroom management improvements in special education and related education services.
- **HB 2337** to increase workers' compensation benefits for workers with permanent partial or total disability.
- **SB 293** to expand Individual Education Plan access to more educators who work with students on an IEP.
- **Creation of a task force on productive learning environments** to pursue best practices for behavioral management in schools.