

Chairperson and Members of the Salem-Keizer Budget Committee, Superintendent Sandy Husk, School Administrators, Teachers, Staff and Community members, my name is Eduardo Angulo and I am the Chairman of the Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality.

Our Coalition Board members, our Latino parents and families are here tonight to dispell several misconceptions about our children right to a good public education:

First, over 95% of our 7,000+ Latino English Learners are American born citizens. Most of them are Oregonians from Salem-Keizer. They are not illegal Aliens. They are American born to monolingual Latino Spanish speaking parents who also contribute to our Oregon tax collection system.

Second, this past 3 years along, these 7500+ ELL children have brought over \$60 million dollars EXTRA to the Salem-Keizer Schools in which only 30 million dollars were invested in their ELL program. The rest of the money for their education went to our School General Fund.

Since 1991 these ELL students have been contributing 100s of millions of EXTRA moneys to the Salem-Keizer Schools General Fund. These students have been helping finance the education of all our other students; from the most affluent communities in the South and West side of town to the NE Salem schools. Still they are not progressing academically at the same level of the rest of the student population in our schools.

Which brings me to point three: there have been some pockets of success in the academic progress of these 7500+ ELL students but most of them URGENTLY need competent BILINGUAL AND ESOL ENDORSED TEACHERS.

We in the leadership of the Coalition and our Latino families feel that the progress that has been made is seriously threatened buy the current situation between our school district leadership and the Teachers' Union.

The positions of over 45 mostly new talented bilingual and ESOL endorsed teachers is in jeopardy because of the issues with regard to guaranty seniority for all teachers.

We need the Districts leadership and the Teachers' Union to continue working on fair concession that include the protection of these highly needed teachers to keep supporting the academic progress that we have made in the education of our ELL students.

Our District has made the recruitment of our highly skilled bilingual and ESOL endorsed teachers a priority to support our community vision and strategic plan to REALLY help all our ELL students.

If we let these 45+ teachers go, we are not getting them back soon and all the academic progress to educate our ELL students in this District will

According to a recent Chalkboard Project Report, Latino students are 13% less likely to graduate than their peers.

In addition, the High School graduation rate for ELL students statewide is up 63% compared to 87% for non-English Language Learners.

Today, the achievement gap is especially more persistent between the 7500, mostly Latino English Language Learners (ELL) and the rest of the student population.

The Latino ELL achievement gap is most persistent in our NE Salem schools.

And that fact alone should worry all of us and it demands that we stay focus on it, more than ever!

This is especially important because 1 in 5 of new kindergarteners in Oregon is an English Language Learner.

In order to be on grade level in the third grade these students need quality, effective programs and teachers in kindergarten (and, preferably, before).

Our English Language Learners face hardships and struggles and need an equitable education system.

Together we are making a difference for these children. We cannot stop now.

Thank you.