

# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Jessica Arzate \_\_\_\_\_ Region: Multnomah \_\_\_\_\_

District/ESD/CC: \_\_\_ Multnomah ESD \_\_\_\_\_ Position #: \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that if elected I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee. My nomination form has been submitted to OSBA (or is attached to this document) as evidence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Arzate

Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/23/21

Date

***Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.***

1. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)?

My hope is to lend my expertise and leadership in PK12 Education and represent my community of East Portland. My hope is also to work on shifting power across the state and within school districts to promote equitable education. It is my mission to help elevate and strengthen the voices of students of color and students who experience the most systemic barriers and provide a platform for advocacy.

2. What leadership skills do you bring to the LPC? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.

My leadership style is collaborative, innovative, and driven by racial equity. As part of the Design Team for the Regional Kindergarten Readiness Network (RKRN), I help facilitate a collective of 60 regional, cross-sector partners working together to ensure that all systems are ready to serve all of our kids on their journey to kindergarten and beyond. I've co-led the development of design criteria and an initial list of potential metrics for the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot as part of this transformational work

3. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by OSBA?

There has been historic investment in education equity through Student Success Plans. OSBA's legislative priorities should be to maintain full funding for the implementation of those plans and to hold districts accountable to improving outcomes called out in those plans. I would also say the second most challenging issue for OSBA will be regarding its role in Board Development, particularly around racially just learning and a Board Member's role in governance. There have been board members across the state that are confusing their own political agendas with statewide policies meant to protect students. OSBA has a critical role in educating and training those boards.

4. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by your region?

Student retention (high mobility rates) due to gentrification and lack of affordable housing and lack of mental health and counseling supports. Our students who have enrollment gaps or transitions are graduating at a lower rate than their peers who remain in one school district. There is a lack of continuity when a student moves from one district to another and causes a significant disruption to their success. Additionally, students in our region are not receiving the adequate support they need to feel and be healthy. Living with trauma and/or mental health illness decreases the likelihood for a student to thrive and achieve the academic potential.

5. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region about legislative issues?

My plan is to create meaningful platforms of communication that align with existing regional efforts. First and foremost, I want to listen to my colleagues and be responsive to the unique challenges and opportunities of each district. In my current MESD Zone, I cover all of David Douglas, Parkrose, Centennial, and a small part of Portland Public Schools. Serving on the MESD Board for Zone 4 (East Portland), positions me to best represent my region. I live, work, and serve in my region.

**Deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 p.m.**

*Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.*



