March 8, 2012

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

The Honorable Rod Monroe, Co-Chair
The Honorable Sherrie Sprenger, Co-Chair
The Honorable Betty Komp, Co-Chair
Joint Special Committee on Public Education Appropriation
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Monroe, Representative Sprenger and Representative Komp:

Thank you for your letter of January 18, 2012 to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), which the Board received at its last meeting on February 7, 2012.

I remain committed to intent of Ballot Measure 1 (2000) to keep us focused on the level of investments we will need to meet our quality education goals. At the same time, I want to ensure that our models for estimating the costs of a quality education reflect the ongoing evolution of evidence-based best practices and stay focused on student success.

In the context of Senate Bill 1581, achievement compacts will be established to provide two-way accountability between the state and school districts. To that end, the Quality Education Model is a useful tool for determining what our investments can mean for our students, provided it is continually updated to reflect educational best practices. By ensuring that the OEIB identifies both the QEM level and the actual expected funding level, this bill will help the Board calibrate expectations and test actual achievement in relation to the state's level of investment.

With these principles in mind, I support your committee's recommendation that the OEIB review the functions of the Quality Education Commission and the content of the Quality Education Model. As Chair of the Board, I will direct the Chief Education Officer to include this review in the work of designing and organizing the state's P-20 education system and to develop a recommendation on the course of action you suggest in the report that the Chief Education Officer will present to me by November 2012.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 373-3111 FAX (503) 378-4863
WWW.OREGON.GOV