



Oregon's kids need a
quality education. Cuts
won't get us there.

Representative Nathanson
900 Court St. NE H-276
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Nathanson,

My daughter, Emma, started school in 2007. She has not yet experienced a year without furlough days. She's never had PE, art and music for more than a term at a time. Her classes have never been below 28 students - not once. Your proposed budget eliminates any hope of her experiencing a full school year, electives or small classes - for her entire school career. Please increase K-12 funding to the \$8.4 billion it will take to avoid cuts.

Thank you, Emma Brown's mother, Michelle





Example 3

Dear Representative Smith,

I'm writing to you because I'm concerned about the future of public education in Oregon, and in particular about our son Mark, who is a student in the Mountain School District. We moved here because of the quality of the schools, but over the last decade we have seen a slow erosion in electives, languages and the arts as schools have struggled to respond to budget cuts at the state level since 2008. Mark is going to college when he graduates in three years, but unless our schools are able to keep pace with those in other states he will already be at a disadvantage when he enrolls. I hope that you share my belief that the best investment our state can make is in our young people. Please find a way to increase investment in our K-12 public schools that Mark and other Oregonians can help make a better state for all of us.

Sincerely,
John Doe

Example 4

Dear Representative Smith,

Our daughter Lydia is a sixth-grader at Smith Middle School in the Field School District. Like a lot of 11-year-olds she isn't exactly sure what she wants to be when she grows up. One day she is going to be a geologist. The next day it's a pop star. As you might guess, she enjoys studying science, and she is a member of the school choir. But over the last few years we have become increasingly concerned about the science/math offerings at her school, and the arts offerings. One of her science classes has 46 students. The choir has had to stop traveling out of the area to save money. With what we have read recently about the state budget, we are very concerned about the possibility of further cuts at our local school. We sincerely hope that you will vote to increase funding on public schools so that students such as our daughter Lydia are prepared for college and career.

Sincerely,
John Doe



More Tips to Make Your Email Count

- **Make your letter unique, personalized and brief.** It should talk about your life, your expertise or the district (legislative and school district). Clearly state you are a constituent and be sure to provide the street address where you live.
- **Stay on message.** Your message is that local schools are being underfunded by the state and the result is an unacceptable educational experience for the child you are talking about. Forgo statewide statistics and talk about the impact on you or your child individually.
- **Stay focused on the message and make a specific request for an action.** Make your request for an action twice – at the beginning of the letter and again at the end.