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**REGARDING: SB 709 - Student Transfers**  
**BY: Morgan Allen, Legislative Specialist**  
**DATE: 5-20-15**

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Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee, for the record, my name is Morgan Allen and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association supporting Senate Bill 709-A. The bill is an attempt to make improvements to the current Interdistrict Transfer statute so that students and school districts have more options to facilitate transfers and provide continuity to students. OSBA is unaware of any opposition to these specific provisions; it passed the Senate 28-0.

The bill currently includes language that means:

- Students who move over the summer and may have missed the transfer window can stay for the next school year. This is similar to legislation the Senate passed 29-0 in 2014 to fix this issue for students who move during the school year.
- Clarifies that districts may revoke transfers for not meeting behavior requirements or attendance standards, but not for academic reasons.
- Clarifies that a student whose transfer has been revoked may not apply for a transfer to the same district for the next academic year. Under the current law, if a district revokes a transfer the student can immediately reapply and the district must accept the student.
- Changes the law so that a student does not need to get a new transfer to keep attending the same district if their family makes subsequent moves. If a student lives in district A, transfers to B and subsequently move to C., they won't need a new transfer between B and C. Current law requires a new transfer between B and C.
- Clarifies districts can ask for sibling information and school preference on interdistrict transfer application forms.
- Allows ODE to clarify what constitutes a "hardship" transfer to give districts more latitude to deal with situations as they arise with individual student circumstances.
- Districts will be allowed to give preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who move during the school year or over the summer. Here is an example of how this works: Sally Smith's family moves in August and has missed the IDT window for the upcoming school year. The bill would allow her to stay for the next school year AND if she wants to apply for a transfer when the window opens, the receiving district may give her preference if there are more applicants than slots available.
- There would be a ban on using state school fund dollars to do out of district marketing like buying ads/billboards or doing direct mailers into neighboring districts for interdistrict transfers. This would be like the prohibition on these activities for Open Enrollment approved by the Senate 30-0 in 2013.
- Allows districts to give preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who have attended charter schools in their district for at least three consecutive years and finished the highest grade at the charter school.

There is also a -3 amendment which allows districts to give the same preferences for outgoing lotteries as they are allowed to do for incoming lotteries that we urge the committee to adopt.

### **Conclusion**

OSBA supports efforts to find common sense answers to the sometimes confusing issue of student transfers. Senate Bill 709 will make the interdistrict transfer system work better for students, families and school districts. We urge your support.