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Subject:	SB 418A
Date:	Thursday, June 04, 2015 12:50:59 PM

Good Afternoon,

This morning, I was provided an amended version of SB 418, which was a disheartening surprise to me. During a hearing this morning, I understand members of the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee discussed a recent article published in the Philomath Express that reported on the Philomath School District Board of Directors action to adopt a revised version of Policy IKF. The revised Board policy provides an opportunity for eligible 5th Year students to benefit from our expanded Beyond PHS diploma program partnership with Linn Benton Community College.

My response to colleagues on the proposed amendments to SB 418, dated June 2, 2015, is provided below and I would like the committee to consider this email as testimony for your next hearing, which is currently schedule for June 9, 2015:

> I have concerns about this proposed legislation. Our school district has partnered with LBCC for the past several years with our formal Beyond PHS program. Last month, after working with LBCC staff and neighboring school districts, our Board of Directors approved policy that would add the "5th Year Enhanced Diploma" program as part of our Beyond PHS program partnership with LBCC. It appears this proposed policy would exclude eligible Philomath High School students from participating in the 5th Year program during the 2015-2016 school year, which would be a discriminating practice.
>
> In our case, I suggest the proposed policy be modified to include school districts that "adopted policy during the 2014-2015 school year." We have 25 students signed up for our 5th Year Enhanced Diploma program and they will be recognized during our graduation ceremony this Saturday (June 6th) for their accomplishment. The amended SB 418, as it reads, would be devastating to these families if Philomath HS students are excluded. Please consider revising this proposed policy with the "2014-2015 adopted policy" amendment I have suggested. I am willing to meet with school district officials and legislators at your convenience.

Dan Forbess
Superintendent

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