



STAND OREGON
for children



From the desk of! Sen. Chris Edwards

Vote YES on SB 1541A

A Valuable, Low-Cost Study on School District Spending & Student Outcomes

If passed, SB 1541A will require the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a low-cost study that:

1) Reviews district spending in different categories that include instruction, support services, transportation, and administration.

Why this matters? This information helps lawmakers, district/school leaders, parents, and community members better understand where K-12 dollars are spent.

2) Identifies and evaluates multiple factors that may affect spending levels in the length of the school year, class size, staffing and compensation, and administrative costs.

Why this matters? Knowing the various factors (for example, students' needs and district size)—and how these factors may shape district spending—are valuable in learning more about how districts' make decisions about the length of the school year, class size and staffing.

3) Determines whether district spending variations are correlated with student outcomes like increasing student attendance and improving graduation rates.

Why this matters? Public data on local spending provides an opportunity for lawmakers, district/school leaders, parents, and community members to learn from each other and continue to improve how we allocate resources to better meet student needs.

The Department shall submit a report on its study findings to the interim legislative committees on education no later than December 15, 2016.

Why this matters? A timely report gives lawmakers, district/school leaders, parents, and community members useful information on district spending and what investments are working for students.

Why vote YES on SB 1541A?

Learn about What's Working

This study will help lawmakers, district/school leaders, parents, and community members learn more about which investments are making a difference for student success.

Builds on the Open Books Project

This study will build on the Chalkboard Project's Open Books work that is committed to straightforward budget information in order to make the best decisions possible about what's working in our schools. For almost a decade, district spending information has been available on the Open Books Project website. Multiple partners—who share a common vision for budget transparency—helped create Open Books.

Information → Smart Decisions

This study will provide valuable information on district spending, so that we can make smart local spending decisions that are informed by student outcomes.

Low Cost, High Return

This is a low-cost study that will raise awareness around how K-12 resources are being used and what investments are supporting student achievement.