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To: House Committee on Education

From: Dave Porter

Subject: Proposed amendments to HB 2688

Please amend HB 2688 by adding the following:

Section 1. (2) the task force shall consist of ~~nine~~ eleven members appointed as follows:

Section 1. (2) (c) (G) one member representing a student exchange organization listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET); and

(H) One member representing a non-public provider of online education

The Quality Education Model is very out of date, especially at the high school level. Oregon high school students should have more choices. All appropriate Oregon high school students should have the opportunity to spend a high school year abroad for full high school credit paid for by their local school district or the state of Oregon. And they should be able to choose a significant number of online courses from a broad array offered to them, and to take the courses independently, that is away from high school campuses.

High School Study Abroad:

Oregon needs to offer paid high school years abroad to appropriate students. Not only are high school study abroad programs rich educational experiences, often life changing, for individual students, but our common futures increasingly will depend upon the abilities of our next generations to seize opportunities and solve problems beyond our national borders. We need to give more of them the skills and experiences needed to make them successful.

There is also a racial equity issue in play. Now, typically, high school students who study abroad are White, middle class students because parents have to pay the study abroad fees. We need to bring more equity to high school study abroad opportunities.

Plus, the fees for existing high school study abroad programs (including tuition, room and board with family, and international transportation) are about the same as the direct classroom operating costs per students at Oregon high schools. The large, Scandinavian based study abroad organization ASSE (chart below) offers many high school years abroad for fees of under \$9,000. For comparison, in 2014-15, the “direct classroom operating costs per student” in Portland Public Schools high schools (as reported to the Oregon Department of Education) ranged from \$7,240 to \$8,296 (see chart in online courses section

below). In 2014-15, total per student expenditures in PPS were \$13,903 (operating expenditures per student of \$12,618 plus capital expenditures per student of \$1,285). Many study abroad fees are less than PPS's operating expenditures per student of \$12,618. By paying to send some high school students abroad, PPS could slightly reduce both its operating and capital costs (need less high school classroom space). Other school district could too.



Program Fees: 2017/2018* Price

School Year or Semester**
 (August/September 2017 Departure)***

Germany, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Finland, Spain, Holland, Turkey, Belgium, Estonia, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, and Moldova	\$7850
France	\$8900
Denmark	\$9150
Mexico	\$7140†
English Canada	\$9850†
English Canada Choice Plus (Vancouver)	\$21000
English Canada Choice Plus (Calgary)	\$20750
French Canada	\$12000†
Thailand (July departure)	\$7200
China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Vietnam	\$8950

A high school year abroad should be an option for all Oregon high school students. Put a representative of high school study abroad organizations on the task force to factor that into the model.

Online Courses:

For high school students, online courses can provide a large array of courses not offered at their specific high school. For a school district, moving students to take online courses apart from the physical campus (at home or wherever there is an internet connection), can produce both operating cost savings and capital savings (because fewer classrooms are needed).

Consider, as an example, the fees charged for online high school courses at Brigham Young University.

They have two levels of fees. One involves more teacher involvement.

High School Courses
 Teacher-Led Courses: \$249 per half credit
 Online Courses: \$148 per half credit
 Paper Courses: \$156 per half credit
 Best Value Courses: \$54 per half credit
 Quarter-credit Courses: \$95 per quarter credit
 **University half (0.5) credit courses are \$183 per course

BYU charges tuition per 0.5 credit, that would be one course for a half a year (a semester). They also charge \$20 per course to mail course materials and \$20 to ship exams. A typical student would have a schedule with eight periods, or the potential for eight courses of 0.5 credit per semester. Thus, a full school year could have up to sixteen courses. Yielding the following chart.

BYU High School Online Courses		
	Teacher	
	Led	
\$ per 0.5 credit	\$289	\$188
8 classes/full year	\$4,624	\$3,008

The Oregon Department of Education publishes a report “Operating Cost per Student by School by Fund” (Report #59) that separates “Direct Classroom” costs from other costs.



Report #59 also separates “General Fund” costs from “Special Revenue Funds” costs. Using the high schools of Portland Public Schools as examples, the following chart combines the “General Fund” and “Special Revenue Funds” for “Direct Operating Costs per Student.”

Portland Public Schools 2014-15 Direct Classroom Operating Costs per Student Oregon Department of Ed, Report #59					% Savings with BYU costs of \$289 per 0.5 credit
	General Fund	Special Revenues	Total	Per 0.5 Credit	
Benson	\$7,067	\$815	\$7,882	\$492.63	41%
Cleveland	\$6,755	\$691	\$7,446	\$465.38	38%
Franklin	\$6,540	\$700	\$7,240	\$452.50	36%
Grant	\$6,682	\$699	\$7,381	\$461.31	37%
Jefferson	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lincoln	\$6,402	\$868	\$7,270	\$454.38	36%
Madison	\$6,884	\$741	\$7,625	\$476.56	39%
Roosevelt	\$7,267	\$1,029	\$8,296	\$518.50	44%
Wilson	\$6,554	\$674	\$7,228	\$451.75	36%

From the annual “Direct Classroom” costs at each PPS high school, the chart then calculates the cost per 0.5 credit by dividing by sixteen. That cost per 0.5 credit is then compared with the cost per 0.5 credit at BYU online (\$289 per 0.5 credit). **BYU is significantly less expensive. The potential savings range from 36% to 44% depending upon the high school.**

Utilizing more online courses for high school students can save money and should be factored into the Quality Education Model. Put a representative of online education on the task force to do that.

Thank you – Dave Porter

