

Representative Margaret Doherty
Chair, House Education Committee
Oregon State Legislature

SB 1002

Dear Representative Doherty and members of the committee;

I am Cathy Wyrick M.S., 4819 SW Vermont Portland OR 97219, Accredited Training Fellow, Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators.

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As a professional tutor with a Master's Degree, national certification and over 30 years of experience. I have worked with students in many schools in the greater Portland area as a tutor and as a supervisor training others to work with struggling readers. School districts I have worked with include Portland Public Schools, Beaverton Public Schools, North Clackamas Public Schools, Tigard Public Schools, Forest Grove Public Schools, Hillsboro Public Schools and Reynolds School district. I have also worked with many private and charter schools.

In my long experience, public schools have regularly allowed professional tutors paid by parents to work in school buildings before and after school hours. I have rarely had a problem tutoring or arranging tutoring for students in school buildings in these times. Often these sessions are coordinated through before and after care programs. These arrangements are of great benefit to the children and make scheduling possible for working parents. I am worried to hear that some districts have recently disallowed this practice in some cases.

The picture for professional tutors in public schools during the school day is much more varied. Schools always welcome outside tutors in schools during the school day if they are volunteers.

Professional tutors paid by the parents have been allowed in a school during the school day or not depending on the views of individual principals. Sometimes principals decide on their own to allow outside tutors. Other times students are tutored by paid professionals during the school day as the result of legal actions on the part of parents. Still other principals do not allow professional tutors in their schools during the school day. Districts' policies seem to change regularly and are not clear.

In summary: Professional tutors have been helping students at school buildings, outside of school hours for many years and in many districts. This is a policy that benefits many and should be continued statewide.

Policies for allowing outside professional tutors paid by the parents into schools during the day is an issue that is a point of contention between parents and schools in many districts. This issue needs further attention.

Thank You for taking my points into consideration.

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