

from the office of  
Rep. Brian Clem  
*Brian Clem*

## Support HB 4113 to ensure local class size conversations

### Ensure educators can advocate for students by including class size in local contract negotiations

Oregon has the fifth largest class sizes in the nation, and continually ranks near the bottom. Education stakeholders and experts agree that large class size reduces the quality of a child's learning, reduces the amount of individualized attention students receive, and contributes to many of the classroom management and behavioral challenges our schools currently face.

Oregon Department of Education's 2016-17 Class Size Report shows extensive data on large class sizes. Almost 20% of Kindergarten classes have more than twenty-six students, 444 math classes have more than thirty-six students, and 53 science classes have more than fifty-six students.

Reducing class size continually ranks among the top education issues for Oregonians, and frustration is growing with the state's lack of action to address this problem.

Currently, when teachers and other educators sit down with school districts to negotiate their contracts, they discuss a variety of terms of compensation and working conditions that affect students. Right now, local school districts can (and often do) refuse to even discuss the issue of class size with educators at the bargaining table. This bill would ensure educators can advocate for this important issue on behalf of their students during these negotiations.

### Put students and class size front and center in school contract talks

With the passage of HB 4113, Oregon would join at least 7 other states including Washington and California in making class size a mandatory subject of school contract talks. This bill would ensure teachers and other educators in every part of Oregon would be able to do what Oregon districts like Portland Public Schools, North Clackamas, and Oregon Trail School District have already done, and add class size language into their local contracts.

Making class size a mandatory subject of collective bargaining is not a magic bullet and will not automatically solve Oregon's school funding problems, but it is a step in the right direction. It will guarantee that educators and school district officials consider ways to manage class size in the district budget at the same time they are setting benefits, compensation, and making decisions about the school year. There is no requirement for any specific outcome and no state benchmarks - simply a requirement that they have the conversation.

**Class size is one of the most important factors for our students' success. Shouldn't it be at the top of the list for contract talks?**



**Please vote YES on HB 4113**

