



Oregon
Environmental
Council
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Please Vote "Yes" for HB 4130 Expanding Student Transportation for Student Success

In recent decades, budget cuts have prompted many school districts to eliminate activities bus routes. The resulting lack of transportation affects students' ability to play sports, engage in performing arts, travel to community college for additional courses, or access local internship opportunities. The barrier of transportation is particularly limiting for low-income and rural students.

We've been happy to join **Representative McKeown, Representative Lively, Representative Keny-Guyer, and Representative Hernandez**, with other environmental, transit, education, and student stakeholders in a work group to find a way to remove transportation barriers to **student success**. We're happy to bring you HB 4130, a bill that comes out of both the policy committee and the Ways & Means process with unanimous, bipartisan support.

HB 4130 creates a grant fund, administered by the Dept. of Education, that would be distributed to school districts as matching funds for additional student transportation options such as activity buses.

This grant will create more flexibility in transportation options and will help school districts maximize educational and enrichment opportunities for their high school students. With the addition of school activity vehicles, we increase **student success**, employ more bus drivers, and allow school districts local flexibility in determining how to best meet their students' transportation needs.

This bill represents a first step to making access to classroom and extra-curricular activities more universal. In rural Oregon, where public transit is not an option to supplement student transportation, this grant fund will incentivize schools to consider restoring transportation options for students.

In addition to conversations about improving transportation access, we've kept the issues of equity, jobs, and student safety central. **With more than 50 percent of our students coming from low-income homes, anything Oregon can do to offer more options for student success is important. HB 4130 strikes a careful balance, addressing service issues and equity by encouraging districts to meet student needs in partnership with the State.**

Thank you for your support of HB 4130.