



Oregon

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DATE: February 8, 2019

TO: Chair Senator Rob Wagner
Vice-Chair Senator Chuck Thomsen
Senator Sara Gelser
Senator Mark Hass
Senator Dallas Heard

FROM: Dr. Hilda Rosselli, CCR and Ed Advancement Policy Director, Chief Education Office

RE: Senate Bill 17

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am providing written testimony in favor of SB 17 establishing a task force on the implementation of electronic transcripts in high school scheduled for a public hearing on February 13, 2019 with a legislative report outlining recommendations due December 1 2019.

The Chief Education Office has a long history of collaborating with legislators, state education agencies, professional associations, as well as students, their families, high school teachers, higher education faculty and staff identifying sustainable solutions to develop and sustain access to college level coursework for students while enrolled in high school. The reason is simple. Both state and national data continue to show that students who take college credit in high school are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in college and persist in their studies. Access to college level courses is especially beneficial to students traditionally underrepresented in higher education as students have shared with us how their participation in college coursework helps them start planning for enrollment in higher education following high school.

Oregon has seen a steady increase since 2013 in the offering of accelerated learning programs for students. In 2015-16, one in three public high school students took at least one form of accelerated learning and nearly all public high schools in Oregon offered at least one form of accelerated learning. However, issues persist in our state around equitable access to course offerings, credit transferability, sufficient numbers of qualified instructors, and adequate support/advising for students and their families. ([SEE HB 2263](#))

In a [recent legislative report required by HB 4053](#), the Chief Education Office in partnership with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission reported on credit transfer of college courses taken while in high school, noting that accelerated learning courses are not currently differentiated on students' transcripts. One of the report's key suggestions was to recommend that high school courses used to offer college credit be documented by type of Accelerated Learning course. Using statewide consistent markers on students e-transcripts related to Accelerated Learning course-taking would help the state by:

- Clarifying where access to Accelerated Learning offerings are still limited by zip-code;
- Documenting a "Return on Investments" from the state's Accelerated Learning investments;
- Tracking improved student outcomes in achieving Oregon's education goals; and
- Identifying any additional policies or resource needs related to sustained offerings of Accelerated Learning coursework in Oregon.

Additional benefits would also be realized by students and their families from a consistent format for reporting courses between high schools and colleges and universities. For these reasons, the Chief Education Office is supportive of the passage of SB 17.