



**Coalition  
for the  
Common  
Good**

---

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Student Success  
April 18, 2019**

**Reed Scott-Schwalbach  
Vice President of the Oregon Education Association**

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success:

For the record, my name is Reed Scott-Schwalbach, Vice President of the Oregon Education Association. I am a high school Spanish Teacher on leave from the Centennial School District.

I want to start by thanking you for your thoughtful and inclusive work throughout this process and for your leadership to address the crisis facing Oregon schools. You didn't create this crisis, but you and your colleagues have an opportunity to fix it for the next generation of Oregon students.

As you have witnessed in your statewide listening tour, our schools are in crisis all across the state. Oregon has one of the largest average class sizes, one of the lowest graduation rates, and one of the shortest school years in the nation. Funding for career and technical education, art, music, and P.E. are often limited or have been cut. There are simply not enough resources in our public schools.

We believe students deserve better.

We believe the Student Success Act will deliver critical investments for Oregon schools. This Act will raise at least \$2 billion per biennium, building a strong public education system that serves all Oregonians. Every student should have an opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive, and we have failed them for too long, especially our students from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. These long-overdue investments would allow schools to reduce class sizes, increase mental health services, expand CTE programs, and lengthen the school year.

As an educator, I believe that learning is about being willing to take risks and challenge ourselves, and take advantage of the opportunities to grow. We challenge our students learn and keep growing, and we ask for your support. In this busy and crowded Legislative session, you too face a challenge. As a committee and as legislators representing your districts, you face both the challenge and once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in Oregon's public schools.

I urge you to rise to this challenge and take bold action to support Oregon students by passing the Student Success Act.