



From the Desk of
Senator
Lew Frederick



OREGON
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION



Please support HB 2867.

We join education advocates throughout Oregon to support a remedy for a unique problem faced by the Klamath County School District: the potential loss of \$2.36 million per school year when they exceed the current statutory limitation for receiving small high school funding. This concern translates to approximately 30 high school teaching jobs on the line in the County school district's four high schools.

Oregon's State School Fund formula includes extra resources for small, often rural, high schools to ensure students may still experience a well-rounded high school education. And that education comes at an extra cost for the school district; the small high school funding in the formula recognizes that cost difference. There is currently a statutory cap of 8500 ADMw for districts to receive the funding.

Klamath Co. SD is on track to exceed current funding formula limit as soon as the coming 2019-21 biennium. Though we hew to the principle that modifications to the State School Fund formula should be rare, we have evaluated this situation and have weighed the potential negative impacts on Klamath Co. students' educational impacts against the small rerouting of dollars from elsewhere in the state, and think this fix is warranted.

Klamath County School District is unique because of size and composition. The district is larger geographically than the states of Rhode Island, Delaware, and Connecticut, covering nearly 6,000 square miles. There are 23 schools, ranging in enrollment from 13 to 714 students. This school year saw an increase of 73 students, pushing the district closer to the 8,500 ADMw cap – the district now has more than 6500 students total. The district serves many small communities that have not shared in Oregon's economic recovery; 81% of the students in the district are eligible for free and reduced lunch. A full 15% of students have disabilities and need extra services and supports. Despite the challenges their communities face, the students of Klamath County are beating the odds and 78% of students are graduating on time, exceeding the statewide graduation rate.

We do not believe that raising the cap to allow Klamath County to continue to receive these additional funds will have a negative impact on students in any other school districts in the state. For these reasons, we ask that you cast your "aye" vote for HB 2867 and thank the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee for its work to bring this bill to you for consideration.

THANK YOU!