



Please Support SB 1607 (LC 66) - One Year Sunset Extension for Small School and Dorm School Funding

Co-Chair Courtney, Co-Chair Kotek, and members of the Interim Committee on Special Session:

The Oregon Small Schools Association(OSSA), Oregon School Boards Association(OSBA), Oregon Education Association(OSEA), Coalition of Oregon School Administrators(COSA), Oregon Association of Education Service Districts(OAESD), Oregon School Employees Association(OSEA), and Stand for Children Oregon urge your support for SB 1607. This proposal extends the sunset date to July 1, 2021 for the Small School District Supplement Fund, more commonly known as the Small High School Grant, and the sunset on funding for foreign exchange students living in dorms at five of Oregon's small, rural school districts. These funding mechanisms within the State School Fund are currently set to expire on June 30, 2020.

SB 1607 would continue these two key provisions through the 2020-21 school year so that these districts do not lose these critical funding sources in the middle of the biennium while also facing one of the most challenging school years in Oregon's history. The first provision would allow foreign exchange students housed in a dormitory setting to be counted as resident students within the district - just like a foreign exchange student staying with a host family may attend school in their local district. This affects between 40 and 50 exchange students each year in five small, rural districts (Burnt River, Mitchell, Paisley, Spray, and Ukiah). The second provision relates to continuing the annual \$2.5 million allocation of State School Fund resources to the Small Schools grant, providing important additional funding for about 80 school districts across Oregon. This bill does not have a fiscal impact because it continues the current distribution formula used for the 2019-20 school year.

During the 2020 Regular Session a bill co-sponsored by three Democrats and two Republicans which would have permanently removed the sunsets on both provisions was passed unanimously by the House Education Committee on a 7-0 vote (with two members excused) and by the full Ways and Means Committee on a 19-0 vote (with two members excused). This proposal enjoys bi-partisan support and the support of the K-12 community. We urge your passage of SB 1607 so that our mostly small, rural school districts will not have their funding disrupted during the 20-21 school year.

For more information, please contact: Morgan Allen (morgan@cosa.k12.or.us)