



March 2, 2021

TO: House Education Committee

FR: Morgan Allen, COSA

RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 2330 and the -2 amendments

Chair Alonso Leon and members of the House Education Committee, on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we ask for your support of HB 2330 with the -2 amendments.

Currently, there are specific funds that many of our small school districts receive as part of their State School Fund payment:

- Five school districts (Mitchell, Spray, Ukiah, Burnt River, and Paisley) house students in their dorms and allow foreign exchange students to come to their districts for a year to live in the dorms. The districts receive the same school funding amount for these foreign students that they receive for students who live there. In the first Special Session of 2020, the Legislature added a new sunset date for this provision allowing foreign exchange students in these districts through July 1, 2021 in SB 1607.
- About 80 districts (out of 197) receive additional funding through a modest Small High School Grant in the State School Fund. This is a carve out that provides \$5 million a biennium (\$2.5 million per year) to these mostly small, rural districts to help support their students. During the first Special Session of 2020 this provision was given a sunset date of July 1, 2021 in SB 1607.

Without Legislative action during the 2021 Session, these funds will stop being distributed to these school districts at the end of the 2020-21 school year due to the current sunset provisions. House Bill 2330 would remove the sunset provisions for each program and make the funds for these districts a permanent part of the State School Fund.

It is important to note that this funding is already part of the State School Funding formula distributions and the bill does not require funding be added to the State School Fund - it just ensures that the districts will continue to receive these funds next school year and in subsequent school years.

The -2 amendment increases the Small High School Grant ADMw maximum from 8,500 to 9,500. This is similar language to HB 2867 from the 2019 Session - that bill passed both chambers unanimously. This amendment comes at the request of the Klamath County School District, through Rep. Reschke, to recognize that this district is approaching the 8,500 threshold and it must be raised to ensure the district's four small high schools continue to qualify for this grant.

We urge your support for HB 2330 and the -2 amendment so that our school districts can keep receiving this critical funding.