



To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2536
Date: March 16, 2021

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Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2536.

Once upon a time, in the pre-pandemic times that feel like ages ago, the Legislature drafted and made into law the Student Success Act of 2019. Passage of that act was the signature legislative achievement of a generation of Oregon students, directing hundreds of millions of dollars of new funding to public school students every year. OSBA was happy to be one of many education stakeholders to testify in support of the act.

Among the most prominent parts of that law was millions of dollars of new funding for nutrition services. The intent at the time was to broadly raise the eligibility of students who would be able to receive no-cost access to school meals.

Unfortunately, since codification, the act has not been interpreted to be consistent with that intent. HB 2536 would make changes to the Student Success Act statutes to make that intent explicit and thereby give the right number of students access to free meals.

Please support HB 2536. Thank you for your time and consideration.