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To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Education Subcommittee
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 3198-A7 amendments
Date: June 5, 2023

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3198, as modified by the -A7 amendments.

House Bill 3198 represents a targeted investment in early literacy programs to deliver culturally responsive, research-aligned literacy instruction to young Oregonian so that each child leaves elementary school proficient in reading and writing in at least one language.

During the 2019 legislative session, Oregon’s leaders made a generational commitment to our children, our educators, and our schools with the passage of [HB 3427](#), the Student Success Act. The SSA funds local district investments in staff, learning time, student mental health, and other crucial programs.

Unfortunately, the HB 3198-A7 amendments would fund the HB 3918 early literacy programs at the expense of the Student Success Grants. This is in spite of the option to use other funds, such as general funds or even the [Statewide Education Initiatives Account](#) of the SSA.

OSBA opposes using the Student Success Grants to fund early literacy investments. School districts revise four-year plans every two year, receive input from the local community, and rely on these grants as a source of investment that is designed to improve access and opportunities for students who have been historically underserved in the education system. Forcing early literacy investments and Student Success Grants to compete for the same funding is not policy the legislature should enact.

Please oppose the -A7 amendments to HB 3198.