



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Government Relations

January 25, 2023

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the House Education Committee:

At Portland Public Schools, we aspire to graduate compassionate, critical thinkers who are able to collaborate to solve problems, and lead a more socially-just world. Our work centers student voices, and our commitment to racial equity and social justice grounds everything we do.

Like school districts across Oregon, we rely on state funding to serve students through the operations of our core functions. We leverage much of our State School Fund allocation to pay for educators, staff, and essential services and programs including counseling, mental health, and social services, food and nutrition services, facilities, maintenance, and operations, and student transportation.

It is no secret that Oregon has experienced chronic and severe school funding gaps since the 1990s. HB 2739 offers our state a change in its approach to the budgeting process that ensures a tentative state budget that is more accurate and reflective of school districts' actual costs.

HB 2739 will bring key stakeholders to the table, including education entities that are equipped to share their expertise of the school finance process. These parties will work in collaboration to identify a methodology for calculating the budget that provides the greatest accuracy possible.

Strong schools at the heart of our communities will pave the way to Oregon's success. Together, we can build high-quality schools that have the resources to meet our students' needs. This work must begin with an accurate and clear understanding of how much it costs to operate our schools. On behalf of Portland Public Schools, I urge you to support HB 2739.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent, Portland Public Schools