



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**



February 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Education
FR: Richard Donovan on behalf of OSBA and Morgan Allen on behalf of COSA
RE: HB 3014 Testimony

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), we are here to express concern with the text of HB 3014.

Transportation funding is a complicated and technical budgeting issue in the public K-12 education system. Generally, across the state, there is a system of partial reimbursement of costs of running school busses and providing transportation to students. There is a finite number of transportation costs that are currently eligible for reimbursement. And, generally, most school districts pay for approximately 30% of their costs from general fund and are not reimbursed.

HB 3014 would allow for new types of reimbursements, specifically for non-bus transportation, including “walkable busses” and other similar transportation programs. Arguably, these programs would save school districts money and would allow new ways to safely deliver students to school.

Unfortunately, the potential impacts of HB 3014 on the school transportation system are not well known. It is difficult to evaluate the bill. For example, we do not know how other districts will be impacted if new districts may seek new funding reimbursement. We do not know how many districts would seek supplemental transportation plans. Or how well these alternative programs work in adverse weather. Or the potential impact across general and special education student populations. Or how safe students and staff will be outside a physical bus.

We understand that there may be amendments forthcoming to address budget concerns. We look forward to discussions about those amendments and other potential policy choices. Until that time, however, we must reluctantly express concerns with the bill as drafted and suggest that some of these unanswered policy questions are worth further examination.

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