



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Government Relations

February 22, 2023

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

As Superintendent of Oregon's largest district, Portland Public Schools (PPS), I write to lend **our support for HB 3014 and to advocate for additional resources for school districts to provide multimodal forms of transportation.**

PPS supports the aims of this legislation to create opportunities for students to walk, bike, or roll to school safely. These modes of active transportation connect our community, encourage youth to engage in fun and healthy activities, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It has been a joy for PPS, and for our city, to witness the excitement and sense of community at the heart of the Alameda bike bus. We commend Coach Balto and the team of teachers, parents, volunteers, who have shown up to get students safely to school in a fun and active environment.

At PPS, we work with a diverse community of parents, students, and organizations to advocate for and promote the use of active and shared transportation to and from schools throughout the Portland area. Our partnership with Tri-Met allows students to access public transit services throughout the school year while acquiring lifetime transit ridership skills. Through our work with PBOT, we are improving local infrastructure to ensure students have safe routes to school.

While we support the aims of this policy, we remain bound by our statutory requirements to provide transportation for elementary students who reside more than one mile from school and for secondary school students who reside more than 1.5 miles as well as students on supplemental plans. It is important that school districts like ours have enough resources to provide bus services, safe transportation services for students with disabilities, and supports for students who walk or bike to school.

As the state considers expanding opportunities for students to use active transportation to get to school, PPS urges the Legislature to explore more ways to fund this critical initiative. Removing the limitation on reimbursement funds for applicable student transportation options



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and allowing additional funding is one way the state could ensure school districts' have the adequate resources to fully support a multitude of ways for students to get to school safely.

Increasing active transportation benefits students, families, and the community. PPS supports the goals of HB 3014 and urges the Legislature to invest even more in multimodal forms of transportation.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools