



March 7, 2023

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, Members of the Committee:

In September of 2022, I was voted in as the Superintendent Advisor on the Oregon State Board of Education. This is an ex-officio position, so I do not vote on board decisions, but I am able to provide the perspective of someone working in the field. Holding this seat allows me to not only share updates from my own district and region, but to elevate the views shared by administrators from across the state.

I am joined in this advisory role by counterparts representing school board members, licensed teachers, and students. With these seats, board members are able to hear and consider a variety of perspectives as they weigh policies and proposals impacting students and schools in Oregon. But one very important voice is absent: that of our classified staff.

Classified staff represent some of the hardest working and most critical members of Oregon's education system. From getting our students to school on time, to ensuring they are fed and have a safe place to learn, to supporting them in the classroom, classified staff members can be the first to report for work in the morning and the last to leave the school at night. In many respects they are the glue that holds a district together.

Given the vital role that classified staff play at the local level, it only makes sense that they should have a seat at the table along with the rest of us serving in advisory roles. I believe adding this advisory seat to the State Board of Education is good policy, and I encourage your support of HB 3383.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Coakley  
Superintendent  
Multnomah Education Service District

**Superintendent** *Dr. Paul Coakley*

**Board of Directors** *Renee Anderson • Jessica Arzate • Kristin Cornuelle • Katrina Doughty • Dr. Samuel Henry • Denyse Peterson • Helen Ying*

11611 NE Ainsworth Circle • Portland, Oregon 97220 • (503) 255-1841 • [MultnomahESD.org](http://MultnomahESD.org)