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To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist

Re: Senate Bill 575 Date: March 15, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, 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 Senate Bill 575.

Senate Bill 575 would create a statewide education success plan for students who are eligible for special education and who have experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices. OSBA generally supports the goals of the measure and the public policy to uplift these students. However, we have one concern and one note.

Our concern is the start date. The requirements of the bill would come into effect on September 15 of this year. For practical purposes, this is likely too soon. Given general legislative timelines, if there is legislative will, then we would expect the bill to become law late this session. That would leave only the summer for schools to do the work of establishing this committee, and that is very tight. We would ask that the bill take effect later than September 15.

Our one note regards the committees established in the bill. These committees, as they are advisory to the school board and superintendent, would all be subject to public meetings law. Advice to the school board is public advice. We welcome this, but think it's worth noting as it arose out of the implementation of a similar law, <u>SB 732 (2021)</u>, which required the creation of equity advisory committees in schools.

We ask for these changes to Senate Bill 575.