

Submitter: Tanya Sinko
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB736

Esteemed Legislators,

I serve the Coquille School District as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Our district is rural and hosts two parallel education tracks: the traditional Coquille schools and the Winter Lakes choice schools. One of the distinctions between the two is the focus on Career Technical Education in our Winter Lakes schools. We are proud of our course offerings in cosmetology, agriculture, and construction trades. However, we see an overwhelming need to do more for our graduates. There are additional programs of study that we want to implement. There are community partnerships that need to be rebuilt after COVID. Funding is key to accomplishing these goals.

A very popular opportunity for students is our expanded options program, where students can earn high school and college credits concurrently and free of charge. A barrier to many of our students, especially our middle school aged students who are TAG, is transportation. Our community is located 18 miles from the local community college campus, and approximately 150 miles from the nearest university. We would like to be able to bring a satellite campus from Southwestern Oregon Community College to our campus to remove that barrier. Additionally, we would like to be able to offer AP courses for students. A DOE study revealing how we can realize these dreams for our students would be phenomenal. We would love to see guidance presented in a student-centric way to support their transitions to the world of the adult.