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To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 595
Date: March 21, 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 595.

Senate Bill 595, and the posted -1 and -2 amendments, would generally require that one percent of the State School Fund be transferred to the Talented and Gifted Account, and then distribute those funds to benefit TAG students.

TAG students are among Oregon's [highest achieving students](#), with graduation and completion rates above state averages. SB 595 would not create new funding for these students. It would, instead, shift existing funding from programs that serve students.

The public education system in Oregon is [underfunded](#). While TAG students deserve investment and funding, it cannot come at the expense of other cohorts of students. Especially at a time when [graduation and completion](#) rates fall below expectations of many Oregonians.

If the bill were amended to include new, dedicated funding for TAG students, then it would be an obvious bill to support. However, given this lack of dedicated funding, OSBA cannot support further prioritizing one group of students over another.

Please oppose SB 595.