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503-588-2800 | 800-578-6722 | Fax 503-588-2813 | www.osba.org

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To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist  
Re: Senate Bill 1045-2  
Date: March 23, 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 in opposition to Senate Bill 1045, as modified by the -2 amendments.

Senate Bill 1045-2 would represent a seismic shift in the way education operates in Oregon. It would shift control of management and operations to the State Board of Education, would create a new bureaucracy to classify schools as standard, non-standard, or conditionally standard, and it would give ODE the ability to directly take over school management in certain circumstances.

Locally elected school board members are in the best position to respond to the needs of their local education communities. A shift away from locally elected school board members to an unelected, appointed State Board of Education should not move forward. And this is just one of many concerns about the policies the bill would enact. It is worth noting that, although the bill is understood as a response to the Secretary Fagan’s 2022 Systemic Risk audit, it is silent on two of the five findings: consistency of expectation for schools, and consistent and predictable funding. It is prescriptive about penalties and control, but does not advance actual solutions that would cause school district to come out of compliance in the first place.

The amendments were made public only a short time before the public hearing on the measure. We hope to work with the members of the committee and the bill proponents on future amendments.

Please oppose SB 1045-2.