

Submitter: Nicole De Graff  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB409

Dear Chair Dembrow and committee members,

I am grateful this bill has been brought forward for a public hearing. Due to getting the wrong link sent to me, I was not allowed to testify in support of this bill today. I am in support of this as a first step in building trust within our local communities. This step would allow parents to be more involved in their children's education. As a parent, I feel it is vitally important to be proactive in shaping our children's academic journey.

I don't support the -6 amendment as we already have basic standards listed on ODE and it does not show instructional materials or lessons included.

SB409 does not politicize or seek to eliminate any curriculum, it simply builds trust between the community, families, and schools. When has more transparency ever been a bad thing?

I noticed 99% of testimony submitted online is in support of this effort. One in opposition, is OEA. The teachers union states in their public opposition letter that, "Creating public access to detailed curriculum does not bridge the gap between educators and parents, it would only serve to make educators more vulnerable to unsafe, targeted attacks". I have to wonder what it is they think teachers would be teaching that would so upset parents?

According to the PPRA (Parents pupils rights amendment), parents have the right to view the curriculum and instructional materials.

"Parents have the right to inspect "any instructional material" used as part of the education curriculum for the student. The parent who wants to exercise this right must request the material; the school does not have to provide access to the material without being asked first. Parents should demand that schools disclose teacher training materials designed to affect or direct student instruction as "instructional material."

What has been the method so far in Oregon schools has been cumbersome and lacking in transparency. Some schools give you a 30 minute window of time to come and take notes. Some don't allow pictures to be taken and you aren't allowed to remove copies from the premises. I know a parent in WLWV who took a small printer with her and made copies on the spot!

This is far too cumbersome and we can do better when it comes to rebuilding trust between schools and families. This type of limited access has led to some acrimony and in the case of Churchill High School where a teacher was giving lessons on sexual fantasies, has raised huge concerns as to the lack of transparency with Sex ed classes. If passed, SB409 would prevent issues like this from arising.

I urge your yes vote on AB409 and the -7 amendment. And please vote no to taking away the rights of school boards to have local control with SB1045.

Thank you.