

Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3552. As the superintendent of Northwest Regional Education Service District Name, Oregon's largest Education Service District, I strongly endorse this bill as a transformative step in expanding equitable, relevant and high-quality career and technical education (CTE) opportunities for students across Oregon.

Oregon's workforce landscape is rapidly evolving, requiring a more coordinated and strategic approach to preparing students for high-demand, high-wage careers. While many school districts offer some level of career and technical education, there remain significant disparities in access to advanced career learning opportunities - particularly in rural and underserved communities. HB 3552 provides a critical framework for addressing these gaps by enabling Education Service Districts (ESDs) to establish regional career centers.

Key Benefits of HB 3552

1. Enhanced Coordination and Equity
 - HB 3552 empowers ESDs to collaborate with school districts, workforce boards, community colleges, and industry partners to ensure that career and technical education programs are aligned with regional workforce needs.
 - By leveraging a regional approach, we can ensure that students in smaller or geographically isolated districts have the same access to high-quality training and career pathways as their peers in larger districts.
2. Strategic Investment in Facilities and Resources
 - The bill allows for the development, construction, or remodeling of facilities - including mobile facilities - to expand capacity for advanced career learning.
 - This investment is particularly vital in regions where schools lack the infrastructure to support robust CTE programming.
3. Work-Based Learning and Industry Credentials
 - The funding plans required under HB 3552 ensure that students have access to work-based learning experiences that lead to industry-recognized credentials.
 - These pathways will help students graduate with the skills and certifications necessary to enter Oregon's workforce directly or continue their education in high-growth fields.
4. Comprehensive Career Navigation and Advising



Northwest Regional Education Service District

- Regional career centers will provide high-quality career navigation services to help students explore career pathways, connect with employers, and make informed post-secondary decisions.
- This structured guidance is essential in ensuring that students, particularly those from historically underserved backgrounds, can successfully transition into meaningful careers.

HB 3552 establishes a clear process for funding allocation, requiring ESDs to develop funding plans in consultation with key stakeholders, including school districts, workforce development boards, and industry partners. These plans must:

- Be based on an assessment of regional career education needs;
- Identify gaps in funding and services;
- Demonstrate how investments will support students in obtaining high-wage, high-demand jobs; and,
- Ensure equitable service delivery across all component school districts.

Additionally, the bill incorporates performance measures that will allow the state and local stakeholders to track the success of regional career centers in improving student outcomes and workforce alignment.

HB 3552 represents a bold and necessary investment in Oregon's students and future workforce. By providing ESDs with the tools and resources to develop regional career centers, we can create equitable access to high-quality career and technical education opportunities, strengthen local economies, and prepare students for lifelong success.

On behalf of Northwest Regional ESD, our twenty school districts, and the over 100,000 students we support, I urge your support for HB 3552 and look forward to working with you to ensure its successful implementation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Goldman | Superintendent