



Oregon Small Schools Association

Date: March 3, 2025
To: House Education Committee
From: Oregon Small Schools Association
Subject: Testimony in Support of [House Bill 3037](#)

Good afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee

For the record, my name is Michael Carter. I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon Small Schools Association. I've served as the OSSA Executive Director for ten years, and as an administrator in Oregon for thirty years.

OSSA currently serves 134 small school districts throughout Oregon. There are ten OSSA board members who are current practicing school superintendents throughout the state that represent the seven regions of OSSA. There are three open board positions that represent Oregon Charter Schools, online schools, and other small school district interests.

OSSA is supportive of House Bill 3037 because it will provide the necessary adjustments and requirements that would help streamline grants, reports, and funding for small and rural schools. In small school districts, as many of you already know, superintendents wear many different hats, from serving as the, elementary principal, SPED director, Title Coordinator, bus driver, human resource director, maintenance supervisor, grant writer, or facilities director, just to name a few.

This bill is vital because it will reduce the paperwork reporting requirements and afford superintendents and other district administrators the time needed to focus on student academic achievement and social wellbeing. Currently the reporting requirements are taking a disproportionate amount of time and small school administrators are not able to keep up with the high volume of reporting obligations.

Many of the requirements are not even relevant to some of our small school districts, and reporting items are duplicated in multiple places, and require reporting on issues that are not even relevant or realistic in small school districts. Here are a couple of examples:

- Reporting on minority numbers, (population) reporting where school districts do have significant numbers and this data is already available through multiple sources.
- Duplications of the same data like facility reports and staff roster and staff assignment reports are two specific examples.

Around grant requirements for school districts, it is a major challenge for small school districts to meet specific requirements like joining a consortium with other counties that are over 200 miles away, specifically around early childhood education, technology supports, and career and technical education.

When it comes to grant funding for small school districts, it is important that grant amounts are significant enough to at least hire a qualified educator to fulfill the requirements. Grant amounts that are under \$60,000 pose a major challenge, especially because budgets for small schools are extremely tight without any flexibility and limited staff. Making modifications to grant requirements, reporting, and funding floors will have a significant impact to the entire process affording smaller school districts the opportunity to access the funds.

I believe that the changes proposed in this bill will help ensure that small schools will have a meaningful amount of grant funding to implement high-quality programs for our students; and reduce the burden of paperwork placed on small schools so that we can focus on our students and staff.

Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to testify today. The Oregon Small Schools Association urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3037.