

Submitter: Tanya Navarrete  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444  
House Committee On Education  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3444 as both a parent and an employee of Four Rivers Community School, a public state-sponsored charter school in Ontario, OR.

Our charter school, like many others in Oregon, plays a vital role in providing innovative and personalized education to students who may not thrive in traditional district schools. However, we face a significant challenge: Oregon's public charter school students are funded at only 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students.

This funding gap has real consequences. At Four Rivers Community School, we struggle with limited resources for special programs and insufficient space for activities. Specifically, we have outgrown our facilities, resulting in a cramped cafeteria, overcrowded gymnasium during games, and insufficient space for performances where parents often must stand for an hour. Additionally, our student transportation services are limited, making it difficult for some students to access our school without additional burdens on their families. This is particularly challenging in our rural community, where reliable transportation options are limited.

I chose Four Rivers Community School for my child because of its unique dual-language program that celebrates bilingualism and biculturalism, its focus on academic success, its emphasis on personal resilience and family/community involvement. This school is an invaluable asset to our rural community, providing exceptional opportunities for my child and others. Despite the challenges posed by limited funding, the school continues to provide great opportunities, but it's clear that increased funding would allow us to better serve our students and community.

Passing HB 3444 will help fix this ongoing disparity by:

- Allowing charter school students to access 95% of the ADMw provided through the State School Fund.

- Allowing charter school students to access local, state and federal education dollars that are also currently available to non charter public schools.
- Allowing charter schools to provide transportation services to students living within their sponsoring district and access transportation reimbursement grant dollars for providing those services.

Every student—regardless of where they attend school—deserves access to quality resources, experienced teachers, and opportunities for success. Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Tanya Navarrete