

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:

As an HR Manager for all 6 Arthur Academy Public Charter Schools I urge you to support House Bill 3444.

By passing HB 3444, we can fix the outdated issues with Oregon's school funding model and provide fair funding for public charter school students.

Oregon's public charter schools can only access 80% of State School Grant funds, and have no access to the number of other revenue streams that districts receive. This dynamic has created a huge disparity in funding.

In our schools, a significant funding gap is apparent across various areas, including buildings, technology, supplies, however the most critical issue I can highlight is the challenge of offering competitive salaries to teachers and staff. While charter schools typically employ more staff per student, our educators often have less experience due to lower pay. In 2023, district teachers earned 21% more than their counterparts at our charter schools, this hinders our ability to attract and retain qualified educators. This provides a disadvantage to charter school staff and students compared to district run schools. 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.

All students in Oregon's public education system should have access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. On behalf of our teachers, staff, and most importantly students, please support HB 3444.

Thank you,

Heather Lund  
HR Manager  
Arthur Academy