



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

THE PROBLEM

Right now, Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. This gap has grown significantly and will continue to grow if we don't act. Charter school students are public students, and should be valued as such.

THE SOLUTION

Pass HB 3444 to:



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



Allow charter school students to access local, state and federal education dollars that are also currently available to non charter public schools.



Allows charter schools to provide transportation services to students living within their sponsoring district and access transportation reimbursement grant dollars for providing those services.



Yes on House Bill 3444

INCREASE ACCESS TO STATE SCHOOL FUND

HB 3444 would help remedy this funding disparity without requiring any new revenue.

Sponsoring districts currently retain 20% of ADMw funds as “administrative oversight funds”. However, public charter schools provide their own Human Resources, Finance, Operations, Board and other services and are required to adhere to quarterly and annual IRS reporting requirements as a 501(c)3. Public charters are also responsible for facility costs while district-run facilities are financially supported through bonds. They’re also paying the same high PERS rate as school districts, without realistically having the opportunity to bond their pension rates as many of our districts do.

EXPAND ACCESS TO OTHER FUNDING STREAMS

There are a number of streams of revenue that feed into a District-run school: state, federal, local, grants, and others. Of those streams, just one, the State School Fund Grant, is required to be passed on to the charter schools. As those funds are passed through the district, a portion is retained there - 20% for public charter students in grades k-8, and 5% for public charter students in grades 9-12. So public charter school students receive 80 or 95% of one funding stream only.

ALLOW FOR GREATER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Parents would be better able to access schools of their choice if public charter schools were able to provide student transportation services. That public transportation is one of the only available transportation options for many of our students puts our youngest kids at a disadvantage, these are students too young to ride (safely) on their own and if schools were able to offer transportation services these young students would be better able to access schools of their choosing.

