

March 12, 2025

To: Chair Rep. Courtney Neron, Vice Chairs Rep. April Dobson, Rep. Emily McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee

From: Jennifer Salazar, Government Relations Intern, **Oregon School Boards Association**

Re: **HB3444** – Relating to the percentage of State School Fund amounts school districts must pay to public charter schools

Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) supports Oregon public school boards to achieve student success by advocating for necessary, stable and equitable funding for all Oregon schools and students. OSBA is committed to advancing school funding formulas that further this important mission for Oregon students.

HB3444 seeks to increase the distribution school districts provide to public charter schools within their boundaries to 95% for all K-8 public charter schools, including virtual schools.

Current statutory language requires school districts to distribute 80% of State School Fund monies to K-8 public charter schools within their boundaries. Districts can choose to negotiate higher distribution rates to K-8 public charter schools, and many do provide more funds than required by statute. OSBA supports local school boards retaining flexibility to make decisions that are right for their communities.

An additional issue in this legislation is subsection 8(a), which requires school districts to utilize funds they retain for administrative costs in support of public charter schools. These administrative costs frequently involve staff time and support that are difficult to calculate, such as employee(s) time, annual evaluations, renewals, school visits, professional development, ELL department support, district liaison support, financial department support and superintendent time. It will be difficult for districts to uniformly and consistently calculate percentages of employee time across different roles and pay scales to comply with this provision.

OSBA supports Oregon school boards retaining autonomy to decide local funding allocations based on their communities' priorities. HB3444 would erode local boards' independent decision-making authority with the proposed changes to the distribution formula.

For these reasons, OSBA opposes HB3444.