



March 17, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron
Vice-Chair April Dobson
Vice-Chair Emily McIntire
Members of the House Education Committee

RE: HB 2508 - Student Data

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO), a project of five major Oregon philanthropic foundations, working to ensure that Oregon has systems in place to support every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

As an organization that focuses on system level changes that have profound positive impacts on student outcomes and experiences, we would like to voice our support for HB 2508. HB 2508 directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and implement a standardized method to be used by school districts, education service districts, and the department to electronically access student data directly from the multiple platforms currently used by our 197 school districts and 19 ESDs.

Data is a powerful tool for understanding who we are and how we are doing, and for combating the pervasive disparities that we know exist for too many children and families. At the system level, the right data can help us discern the root causes of inequities in our systems, illuminate which strategies make the greatest impact, and lead to insights and improvements. At the school, teacher, and student level, data is critical to ensuring students' unique needs are known and met.

Additionally, school district administrators and staff are currently overwhelmed by the volume of reports and data collections currently required. In addition to the streamlining and consolidation of reports envisioned by HB 2009/SB 141, this bill would significantly reduce burden on districts and ODE, freeing up time and resources for the important work of serving students and families.

We are long overdue to address Oregon's fragmented and ad hoc methods for sharing and securing student data. We urge the Committee to support HB 2508, an important in building a system that supports all Oregon youth to learn, grow, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Whitney Grubbs
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