

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of [HB 2508](#)

March 17, 2025

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

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of HB2508. I introduced HB 2508, as part of my emphasis on **transparency, accountability, and improvements in useful and helpful data collection** in our education system. I see HB2508 as part of a pathway to improve the educational experience for Oregon's students, particularly those who are highly mobile or have individualized education plans (IEPs).

This bill will establish a standardized, electronic method for managing and transferring student records across school districts and education service districts. The ability to efficiently and securely transfer student data is not just a convenience; it is essential for **ensuring educational continuity, efficiency, access to services, and long-term success for all students**.

Currently, the process of transferring student data is fragmented and inefficient, leading to delays when students move between schools or districts. These delays disproportionately impact students who are most vulnerable, including those in foster care, children from military families, and **students with disabilities**.

When student records are not transferred promptly, educators lack vital information, such as IEPs, medical alerts, attendance records, and assessment data. These disruptions can hinder academic progress, delay access to critical support services, and create unnecessary stress for students and families.

HB 2508 directly addresses these challenges by ensuring that student records are transferred efficiently and securely, allowing educators to make informed decisions that meet the unique needs of each student. The bill directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement a standardized electronic system for managing student data. This system will **streamline data transfers, reduce redundancies, and integrate electronic health records** to maximize Medicaid reimbursements for eligible school services.

The streamlined process outlined in HB 2508 will promote educational equity by ensuring that all students, regardless of their background or circumstances, have uninterrupted access to the resources and support they need. Furthermore, the bill emphasizes the importance of **data security and responsible stewardship of student information**.

A Technical Advisory Committee, comprising educators, school administrators, IT and cybersecurity experts, and other stakeholders, will guide the implementation of the system, ensuring that it meets the diverse needs of Oregon's schools while upholding the **highest standards for student privacy**. The advisory committee will also oversee the transition process and submit biennial reports to the Legislature to track progress and address any challenges that may arise.

In 2024, I introduced legislation to continue the conversation on this issue, which helped me realize (to my delight) that many districts across the state were already collaborating to solve these challenges and essentially piloting the concept this year.

Our [September 2024 interim legislative hearing](#) centered on the gaps and opportunities in student data, and drew from the **expertise** of Rachel Wenty Chaney and Dan Farley. Together, they discussed the progress we've made and the next steps in building this policy. Their input, along with contributions from an **interim work group**, helped shape HB 2508. Many districts, such as North Bend and Coos Bay, are **already piloting student information systems**, demonstrating the feasibility of this initiative. Each year, 14-20% of students—approximately 75,000 children—are affected by delays in transferring records, often resulting in wait times of days, weeks, or even months.

HB 2508 will ensure that data management systems are **consistent, efficient, and secure, benefiting not only student transfers but also other important areas like Medicaid billing, special education, chronic absenteeism, and more**. Standardizing these processes will lead to improved reporting accuracy, better data collection, and increased efficiency for Oregon's educators, families, and students. It also enables more comprehensive research and insights at ODE, helping us understand the full scope of educational needs and opportunities.

A well-functioning student data system is more than just an administrative tool; it is essential for ensuring that every student receives the support they need to succeed. By enabling **seamless transfers of student records**, HB 2508 will help educators provide more personalized support, reduce learning disruptions, and address disparities in academic achievement. This bill is an investment in the future of Oregon's students, and I urge you to support its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.