

**Testimony in Support of HB 2508**  
**Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)**  
**March 17, 2025**

Chair Neron. Vice-Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Cassidy Kotter, and I am a Government Relations Specialist with the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). On behalf of OSEA's 25,000 classified education professionals across all 36 Oregon counties, we stand in support of HB 2508. This bill is a crucial step in modernizing and standardizing how student data is managed, ensuring a secure, efficient, and equitable system for school districts, education service districts, and the Department of Education.

As classified education professionals, OSEA members work daily with student data in various capacities, including office administration, special education support, transportation services, and information technology. Members understand the challenges posed by inconsistent data management systems, which can lead to inefficiencies, miscommunication, and potential security vulnerabilities. HB 2508 will address these issues by implementing a standardized method for electronic data handling, ultimately benefiting students, educators, and families alike.

Fundamentally, HB 2508 would ensure increased efficiency and accuracy of student data. Currently, school districts across Oregon use a patchwork of different data systems, making it difficult to transfer and access student records smoothly. Standardizing data management practices will reduce errors, improve efficiency, and allow classified staff to dedicate more time to supporting students rather than troubleshooting incompatible systems.

Additionally, HB 2508 would achieve enhanced data security and privacy protections, as well as equity in access to student information. The sensitive nature of student data requires the highest level of security. Establishing a uniform electronic system will ensure that all school districts adhere to best practices for data protection, reducing the risk of data breaches and unauthorized access. Some districts also currently lack the resources to implement robust data systems, leading to disparities in how student information is managed and shared. HB 2508 will provide a consistent and equitable framework for data use, ensuring that all districts—regardless of size or funding—can meet the same high standards.

Classified staff, teachers, and administrators all rely on accurate student data to provide the best possible educational support. A standardized system will enhance collaboration between departments, allowing for real-time access to critical student information and ensuring that students receive the services they need without unnecessary delays.

HB 2508 represents a crucial step toward modernizing Oregon's education system and supporting the professionals who work tirelessly to serve students. We urge an aye vote on this bill to create a more efficient, secure, and equitable process for managing student data.

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