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**Haley Percell**

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations & Communications

DATE: March 19, 2025

RE: HB 3040 -1

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon's locally-elected education governing bodies. OSBA appreciates the efforts to expand Oregon's early literacy focus, but we do have some concerns with the -1 amendments to HB 3040.

We would like to see districts have the ability to use a limited portion of their funds on targeted supports for students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Our rationale is twofold. We have districts that have made great gains, but where 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students still need additional supports. We also have small and rural schools with multi-grade classrooms and we need to ensure they have the flexibility to meet the needs of their students, within their local context, while staying within the requirements of the grants.

For example, the Adel School District has a two-classroom school building that serves students in grades K-8, with a current enrollment of 11 students. The grade level breakdown of their students is as follows:

- Kindergarten: 2
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 1
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 3
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 2
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 2
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1

In a school this small, the grade distribution of students is not predictable the same way it is in a larger school that will have entire classrooms full of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Schools like Adel need the flexibility to work with mixed-grade student cohorts in a manner that works for them, without the need to consider whether the grant funds can only be targeted to three of their seven elementary-grade students.

We would also like to see the role of ESDs in providing regional support more explicitly called out. ESDs play a key role in supporting regional alignment of these types of initiatives, and that is true across both urban and rural parts of the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to weigh in. We look forward to engaging with the sponsors and reviewing future amendments.