

Submitter: Sarah Kester
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB141

Chair and members of the committee,

I write in support of SB 141 and its intent to improve accountability in Oregon's public education system. We do need clear metrics and stronger intervention tools to ensure that no school district leaves students behind—especially those already marginalized.

But let's be honest: you can't measure your way out of a funding crisis.

The metrics in SB 141—K-2 attendance, 8th grade math, high school graduation—are important. But they won't improve without serious investment, particularly in special education, English language learners, and behavioral health supports. Many of our schools are drowning in unfunded mandates, and special education programs are stretched so thin they're snapping.

If the state wants to intervene in struggling districts, it must also equip them with the resources to succeed. That means expanding targeted funding for:

Special education staffing and training

Culturally responsive curriculum and wraparound services

Mental and behavioral health support teams

Accountability without investment is just punishment. SB 141 will only work if it's paired with real money and real help for the schools that need it most.

Support the bill—but back it up with funding. Otherwise, it's all stick and no carrot.

Thank you for your work and consideration.

Sarah kester

Keizer, Oregon