

February 3, 2026

Chair Hudson and Members of the House Education Committee,

RE: Northwest Regional Education Services District (NWRES D) supports HB 4079 with the -1 amendment.

The Northwest Regional ESD serves 20 school districts, with over 100,000 children, including one of the largest thriving Latino populations in the state. Our organization is committed to antiracism, multiculturalism and ensuring the success of each and every student. This commitment means we focus on attaining exceptional student outcomes that are not predicted by race, ethnicity, family economic status, mobility, language, country of origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or ZIP code.

Since this fall, children in our region, their families, and the educators who support them, have experienced a surge of aggressive and unsettling actions by federal immigration enforcement agents (e.g. ICE). These events are horrifying for the entire school community, creating unworkable learning environments and high levels of trauma. Oregon is already in the midst of a youth mental health and chronic absenteeism crisis. Schools must be places of safety, stability and welcoming to all. Yet uncertainty around enforcement actions in and around schools undermines that foundation. And of course, this fear does not stop with students; school staff and community partners are also highly affected and at risk.

HB 4079 with the -1 amendment is a necessary start to putting statewide processes in place to increase trust in schools during an incredibly traumatic time. It will not solve everything, but HB 4079 establishes clear expectations around transparency, communication and responses so that schools are not improvising in moments of crisis when ICE shows up on more campuses across Oregon.



Northwest Regional Education Service District

We are aware of technical amendments being pursued by partner organizations like Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, Oregon School Boards Association and Oregon School Public Relations Association. We offer our support for any amendments from partners that will make HB 4079 reduce unintentional harm to vulnerable communities and increase implementability at the local level.

Respectfully,

Dan Goldman
Superintendent