



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4154 - Regular Attendance

Senate Education Committee | February 24th 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record, I am Representative Lamar Wise of House District 48, serving Southeast Portland and North Clackamas, and I urge your support for HB 4154 as amended.

This bill grew out of the 2024 Chronic Absenteeism Workgroup led by the late Representative Hoa Nguyen and Senator Suzanne Weber, both educators who understood how chronic absenteeism disrupts learning and long-term opportunity.

Chronic absenteeism is not just a statistic. It represents students losing connection to school and falling behind academically and socially. Oregon faces one of the most severe absenteeism challenges in the nation, and too often we identify the problem only after it is too late to intervene effectively. HB 4154 helps us act sooner.

As amended, the bill directs the Department of Education to use attendance data districts already collect to publicly report, four times per year, the number and percentage of students who are regular attenders and chronically absent. This applies only to students enrolled at least 10 days and includes time for districts to review data for accuracy before release.

Quarterly reporting allows schools, districts, and communities to see trends earlier, respond faster, and better target supports and resources. The

Department must also clearly explain definitions, methodology, and limitations to ensure transparency and responsible use of the data.

HB 4154 complements the long-term solutions in HB 3199 by ensuring we have timely, consistent data to make those strategies effective. It does not create a new mandate, but makes smarter use of information we already collect, with implementation beginning in the 2026 - 2027 school year.

If we are serious about improving outcomes for students, we must start by ensuring they are in school and responding quickly when they are not.

HB 4154 gives Oregon the tools to act sooner and support students before they fall through the cracks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.