

Submitter: Virginia La Forte
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4154

My name is Virginia La Forte, and I'm a Director with the Portland Public Schools Board of Education and I live in Northeast Portland. I'm also a parent of current and former PPS students. I support of House Bill 4154.

As a school board member, one of my core responsibilities is stewardship — ensuring that we use public funds and resources wisely while building trust with the families we serve.

Across Oregon, districts are navigating significant financial pressures while continuing to advocate for the financial resources students need. In that environment, transparency and accountability are foundational to sustaining public confidence. HB 4154 represents a practical and meaningful step in that direction. More accurate, timely data will help all of us answer this critical question at any given moment: how are students doing right now? We can spend all of the money we want in classrooms, but if our students aren't in class, it's all for not.

What makes this proposal especially compelling from a governance perspective is that it is both low lift and high value. The data already exists. HB 4154 simply ensures it is reported earlier and more frequently, strengthening visibility without creating new operational burdens for schools. Supporting this bill signals a commitment to openness at a time when districts are asking taxpayers and lawmakers to invest more in public education.

Better information supports better decisions — not only for educators, but for families, board members, and community partners working to keep students engaged. While no single policy will solve chronic absenteeism, clearer and more timely reporting is a common-sense step that promotes accountability, informs resource decisions, and reinforces public trust in our education system.

For those reasons, I ask you to support House Bill 4154.