

Submitter: Ashley Pierson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4154
Date: 2/26/26

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1454A

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit the following testimony for House Bill 1454A. I am writing in support of this bill as we appreciate the Legislature's attention to student attendance and the importance of accurate data in supporting regular attendance across Oregon. To ensure successful implementation of HB 4154A, we respectfully offer the following recommendations for consideration.

First, we encourage the bill to require the Oregon Department of Education to consider revising and clarifying the current guidance on attendance data submission. The current guidance states that for student to be counted for the full day, "...they must be present for more than half of the morning to be counted as present for the morning, and present for more than half of the afternoon to be counted as present in the afternoon" (ODE Cumulative ADM Manual). This definition is complicated and can lead to increased district staff time in collecting, checking, and reporting attendance data. We are also concerned that given the complex definition, there may be differences in how districts are interpreting and enacting the definition. Consistency across districts is essential to ensure accuracy and comparability.

The complicated nature of this definition leads to a concern that districts may need additional support to follow the guidance. In addition to simplifying the guidance, we recommend including direction for the Oregon Department of Education to provide technical assistance and implementation guidance to districts. Adjustments to data systems, staff training, and quality assurance processes may require additional support, and increased reporting frequency takes district staff time away from serving students. Clear guidance and centralized technical resources will help districts comply efficiently and consistently.

Finally, we encourage the Legislature to recognize that attendance data alone does not improve regular attendance rates. Public reporting should be paired with a commitment to supportive, student-centered strategies. Ensuring that data is used constructively will align with Oregon's equity goals and support meaningful improvement in student outcomes.

We appreciate the intent of HB 4154A and support thoughtful implementation that promotes transparency while minimizing administrative burden on school districts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Pierson
Director of Data Strategy
Salem-Keizer Public Schools