



**Oregon**  
SMALL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

2001 SW Nye Avenue  
Pendleton, Oregon  
97801  
Phone: 888-437-6892  
Fax: 541-276-4252

**To: House Education Committee**  
**From: Michael Lasher, Executive Director, Oregon Small Schools Association**  
**Date: April 1, 2013**  
**Subject: Oppose HB 3401 and the proposed -1 amendments**

The Oregon Small Schools Association is opposed to House Bill 3401, and the proposed -1 amendments.

- HB 3401 will hurt small districts in that it will automatically send 90% of funds to school districts in every ESD region.
- In addition this bill will break up successful consortiums by opting-out every district from their ESDs.
- Small districts will be especially hurt, because they receive so little money due to their size, but benefit the most from successful ESD consortiums.

The -1 proposed amendments are still harmful to small districts.

- Many ESDs work quite well and are responsive to their districts, and by sending money directly to districts, there will be less incentive to cooperate and more incentive to repeat the same services district by district, especially in large districts. This is simply not a very efficient process.
- For example, a school district with 500 students would receive, under the proposed 22.5%, about \$30,000. For a district of 200 kids the figure is less than \$13,000. Neither is enough money to hire staff or make any significant changes.
- Meanwhile the larger districts decide to start their own program - just for them - like a shopping mall with no anchor tenants, the small stores cannot bring the foot traffic in to make a go of it.
- The ESD structure that requires 2/3 or the districts with over 50% of the students to agree on a service plan is an extremely equitable way to decide how ESD money should be spent. If an ESD is dysfunctional or the large district cannot abide being in a consortium, they are able opt-out.

**Please Oppose HB 3401 and the proposed -1 amendments.**

***For more Information:***

Michael Lasher, OSSA Executive Director - 541.969.6024  
Justin Martin, OSSA Lobbyist - 503.580.5226