



Please Support House Bill 3034

The Oregon School Employees Association urges you to vote in favor of House Bill 3034.

HB 3034 requires Oregon prekindergarten programs (Head Start) to comply with public meetings laws. Some, but not all Head Start agencies that receive Oregon prekindergarten funding already comply with Oregon open meetings laws. HB 3034 will assure that they all comply with these important requirements.

Head Start agencies in Oregon receive more than 90% of their funding from state and federal funds. Unlike school districts, ESDs, community colleges and public higher education institutions, Head Start agencies are not currently required to comply with Oregon's open meetings laws.

Open meeting laws were established decades ago because it is important to allow the public to have access to boards that govern public agencies and institutions such as public schools. These laws require such boards to provide public notice of their meetings, allow public access to those meetings, and produce minutes of board actions taken at meetings. Federal Head Start law also encourages public access to assure communication and cooperation with parents and other members of the public.

HB 3034 will assure that all Head Start agencies receiving Oregon prekindergarten funds will allow parents and other members of the community that have an interest in the way Oregon prekindergarten education and services are provided to attend meetings of their local Head Start governing board. Such access has improved the relationships other public agencies have with their constituencies, and we believe HB 3034 will have the same effect for Head Start agencies.

For these reasons OSEA asks you to vote in favor of HB 3034.

From the desk of Rep. Chris Gotsek