



Date: February 3, 2020
To: House Education Committee, Chair Margaret Doherty and Members
From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations
RE: *HB 4132 [Oregon Student Health Survey]*

On behalf of OEA's 45,000 members, it is my honor to share the organization's support for HB 4231, to collect accurate data on school climate and our students' health and well-being.

This bill will meet the capacity needs of OHA to conduct the Oregon Student Health Survey, which is an anonymous and voluntary research-based survey currently administered to 6th, 8th, and 11th graders. As the only source of statewide data on school climate and the health and well-being of Oregon students, the survey provides essential data that help schools and communities focus on crucial supports for ensuring successful youth development. Access to health and dental care; social/emotional wellbeing; mental health (including experiences of depression or suicidal ideation); sexual activity and HIV/AIDS knowledge; school safety and bullying; housing security; nutrition and physical activity; tobacco, vaping, and substance use; and healthy relationships are just some of the topics addressed in this survey.

We need accurate data to drive effective decision-making in our schools, especially as we work to implement the Student Success Act's health and safety, mental/ behavioral health supports, and equity provisions. Currently Public Health programs at OHA pool limited programmatic dollars to fund survey administration, but the agency lacks the capacity to provide participating districts with meaningful feedback or technical assistance on data relevant to their respective student bodies.

And that's a missed opportunity, because academic success of students is deeply impacted such factors as hunger, mental health, bullying, trauma, and lack of health care access. Barriers to services make it difficult for Oregon youth to reach their full potential. HB 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill, will give our educators information they need to support the health, well-being, and academic achievement of Oregon youth.

We urge the committee to support this bill to codify and fund the Oregon Student Health Survey for the health and well-being of our students, now and in the years to come.

Thank you.