

# TIX Education Specialists

*"Bridging compliance and best practice."*

**HB 4132**

**House Committee on Education**

**February 3, 2020**

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and Members of the Committee,

TIX Education Specialists provides training, consultation, and investigation services to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Our focus is on Title IX as well as federal and state sexual harassment and assault laws. Our goal is to bridge compliance with evidence-based, trauma-informed best practices to help educators and school administrators serve their students best.

We are writing you today in support of HB 4132, which will require the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to administer, collect, analyze, and distribute reports from the adolescent student health surveys, effectively providing the opportunity for every county in Oregon to participate in the Oregon Student Health Survey. We would also like to offer our support for the -1 amendment to the bill which would make sure information gathered from any such surveys would be distributed in a way that is culturally responsive to the needs of the communities participating in the surveys.

Additionally, we would be supportive of an amendment to HB 4132 that would require such surveys to be offered in languages that represent Oregon's student population and/or that interpreters be provided to students for completing the surveys.

Understanding school climate and the health of Oregon students is the most critical step we can take if we want to create effective legislation and policies to promote the wellbeing of Oregon's youth. At TIX Education Specialists we are constantly looking towards data to tell us how we can help schools best support their students. Historically, the Oregon Healthy Teen Survey has had lower participation by more rural school districts and those that could not afford to participate. This has left us without a critical understanding of the behaviors and experiences of some of our most vulnerable student populations.

Data from this survey will allow us to better prevent and respond to instances of sexual harassment, assault, stalking, and dating violence among Oregon's students. It will allow us to know if Oregon's efforts to educate students on evidence-based human sexuality and healthy teen relationships are effectively reaching our students, and if not, how we can pivot to set them up for safety and success.

Respectfully,

Sammy Brace  
Policy & Communications Manager