



To: Chair Doherty, Vice-Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Helt & Members of the House Committee on Education
From: Justin Martin, Oregon Small Schools Association
Date: February 7, 2020
Subject: House Bill 4044

The Oregon Small Schools Association (OSSA) supports House Bill 4044, which removes the sunset on the Small School District Supplement Fund, more commonly known as the Small High School Grant, and the sunset on funding for foreign exchange students living in dorms at five of Oregon's school districts.

Small High School Grant

Per student costs are naturally higher in schools with fewer students, and small districts struggle to provide similar opportunities to those in larger districts. The Small High School Grant allows districts with one or more small high schools to offer a diversity of programs that otherwise would not be available, including college and scholarship advising, career counseling, and technical skills training. Each of these programs gives students from rural Oregon some of the same opportunities as their peers in larger districts.

The need to offer a variety of programs at small high schools with limited funding never goes away and deleting these two sunsets will secure a funding mechanism that small school districts have really come to rely upon.

Dormitory School Funding

A small number of OSSA districts rely on dormitories to house foreign exchange students, including Burnt River, Mitchell, Paisley, Spray and Ukiah. Dorm schools increase diversity and enhance the quality of education delivered within the schools, and through these programs local students experience an up-close and vastly different perspective of world events, history, culture, government and more.¹ Removal of the sunset will ensure these school districts are able to continue counting foreign exchange students living in dormitories.

"Every student in Oregon deserves the best possible education no matter if they attend school in the Portland area or Jefferson County in Eastern Oregon. No matter if their graduation class has 400 members or 4, each and every one of them is important to the future of Oregon." Michael Carter, Rainer SD Superintendent and OSSA Chair.

2019/2020 OSSA Exchange Student Enrollment:

• Burnt River	10
• Mitchell	8
• Paisley	8
• Spray	13
• Ukiah	3
Total:	42 students

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with questions, 503.580.5226 or jgjmartin@me.com.

Please Support House Bill 4044

¹https://www.osba.org/News-Center/Announcements/2017-06-14_Dorms-Pt1.aspx/