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Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

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House Bill 2060 - Technical Changes & Modifications to Student Success Act (HB 3427, 2019)
House Education Committee
February 2, 2020

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee, I am Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 2060.

This bill makes small technical changes to the Student Success Act. Jessica Ventura, our Government Relations & External Affairs Director will walk through all the changes that are designed to help ensure we realize the original intent of the Student Success Act by serving focal group students, providing more access to meals at school and meeting student academic and mental health needs.

I want to offer thoughts on just two of these changes.

The Student Success Act includes the Student Investment Account, which is the largest new investment in K-12 education in more than three decades.

The Student Investment Account has two purposes in statute:

- 1- Meet students' mental or behavioral health needs; and
- 2- Increase academic achievement for students, including reducing academic disparities for specific focal student groups that have been long underserved and marginalized by our systems:
 - Students of color
 - Native American students
 - Students experiencing disabilities
 - Emerging bilingual students
 - Students navigating poverty, homelessness, and foster care

The first change I will address is ensuring all public school students, especially from these focal groups, receive the benefits of the Student Success Act, regardless of where they go to school.

HB 2060 expands list of eligible applicants to include schools and programs that were left out of the original act, but that serve Oregon students. This includes the Oregon School for the Deaf, which serves students with disabilities. It also includes Youth Corrections Education Programs, Juvenile

Detention Education Programs, which often serve students disproportionately representative of these focal student groups the Student Investment Account aims to serve. And, it ensures the four charter schools sponsored by the State Board of Education can receive funds from the district where they are located or apply independently, if eligible. These districts will receive funds based on the enrollment of students in these schools and can work with them on their Student investment Account plans.

The second item I want to touch on relates directly to the first stated purpose of the Student Investment Account: Meet students' mental or behavioral health needs.

School districts can spend Student investment Account dollars in four ways:

- 1- Increasing instructional time
- 2- Addressing health and safety needs – Including social-emotional and mental health needs
- 3- Reducing class size
- 4- Expanding well-rounded learning opportunities

The Student Investment Account also that we measure progress. We have ways to measure progress on both purposes and all ways that districts can expend funds, minus one.

The only one of these that we do not have statewide measures for is related to social-emotional and mental health.

This bill asks that the State Board of Education engage education and community partners to name measurement tools and targets related to student mental and behavioral health needs and state that grant recipients may (not shall) use those measurements or any other optional local metrics.

I believe these two changes are critical. We need to ensure all focal group students are served by the SSA regardless of where they go to school. And, we need to develop ways to show that our efforts are working to meet students mental and social-emotional needs.

With that I will turn it over to Jessica Ventura to explain some of the details of the bill. We are happy to meet with any of you individually to walk through any of the details of this bill.