



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
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TO: Senate Education Committee
FR: Morgan Allen, COSA
RE: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 804

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we want to share some concerns about Senate Bill 804. This legislation would take away local control of budgets from communities and locally elected school boards and instead impose a required percentage of district expenditures on classroom teachers in specific subjects.

The operation of public schools in Oregon and across the nation is a “people” intensive enterprise. The Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) calculates that the average school district spends around 86% percent of their budget on personnel and the related costs (health insurance, benefits, etc.).

Local school districts, guided by local budget law, district budget committees, locally elected school boards, and community input, currently have the flexibility to adjust their budgets to meet the needs of their students and communities while staying in compliance with the myriad of state and federal education mandates.

If Senate Bill 804 passed as currently drafted it would likely result in significant upheaval in school districts across Oregon as it would necessitate an intensive analysis of whether districts are in compliance with the bill’s provisions. If not in compliance, it would set off a chain reaction that would have significant consequences for the operations of schools, employment contracts, and fulfillment of state and federal mandates.

Most of the social and emotional support and safety measures we will need to provide to our students and their families will not meet this new spending mandate and create more confusion as schools across Oregon reopen. We urge this committee and Legislature to instead focus on providing the resources our schools and students need to move as quickly as possible to a return to in-person learning, without new spending mandates.

We ask the committee to not advance SB 804 to a work session. Thank you for your consideration.