



May 4, 2021

Senator Rob Wagner, Chair
Senate Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support for the -8 Amendment to SB 225A

Dear Senator Wagner and Members of the Committee:

HB 3427, which was approved by the 2019 Legislative Session, authorized a role and funding for ESDs in supporting ODE and local districts in the use of Student Success Act funds described as follows:

Develop a plan under this subsection which

(A) Aligns with and support school districts in meeting the performance growth targets of the school districts developing the plan.

(B) Includes the provision of technical assistance to school districts in developing, implementing and reviewing a plan for receiving a grant from the Student Investment Account; and,

(C) Provides for coordination with the department in administering and providing technical assistance to school districts, including coordinating any coaching programs.

The legislation went on to allocate funds to ESDs for the identified work based each ESD's ADMw as a percentage of the total ADMw of all education service districts receiving a distribution from the Legislatively appropriated amount of \$24 million (later reduced to \$20 million by the August Special Session of the Legislature). This formula resulted in available biennial funding for the six smallest ESDs (Wallowa, Grant, Lake, Harney, North Central, Jefferson) ranging from \$38,000 to \$140,000. These amounts, while significant, do not cover the costs of the staff necessary to adequately perform the tasks designated in the statute for support of school districts. The proposed language in the -8 amendment to SB 225 would create a "floor" amount for each ESD whereby they could provide full-time, administrative-level staff with the skills necessary to support local districts. This concept of "floor" funding is consistent with base amounts being provided to the smaller Education Service Districts as part of the state school funding distribution for ESDs.

Student Success Act funding for smaller ESDs will be used in the following activities:

- Assist in the writing and updating of district Student Investment Account (SIA) plans, including the facilitation of community engagement and the coordination of stakeholder and partner participation.
- Work with district building administrators on SIA requirements and provide technical assistance in establishing relevant targets and submitting mandatory reports.
- Coordinate with ESD and district school improvement, curriculum, and special education staff to provide seamless delivery for the implementation of SIA plans.
- Coordinate common initiatives by creating and supporting regional plans.
- Assist in gathering and interpreting data to assess progress toward plan outcomes.
- Provide trained personnel to support schools in working with student behaviors, trauma informed practices and the coaching of teachers.
- Provide technical assistance to district business offices in reporting and coding of SIA expenditures.

We believe that the proposed -8 Amendment to SB 225A would provide the six smallest ESDs with the funds necessary to secure the technical expertise necessary to support their small and generally rural school districts in ways which would ensure high quality and effective implementation of Oregon's Student Success Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Redmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark Redmond

Superintendent, Malheur Education Service District
President, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts