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To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 732A
Date: May 25, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 732A.

SB 732 would require every school district to establish an educational equity advisory committee. These types of committees were initially created voluntarily by certain local school boards, notably the Lake Oswego School District. Equity committees would have some influence over school district spending, including local budget processes and continuous improvement plans. Larger school districts (ADM 10,000+) would have to convene these committees by September 2022. All other school districts may wait to convene the committees until September 2025.

In the hearing on the bill in the Senate Committee on Education, OSBA expressed concern about certain portions of the base bill, including some reporting requirements. Those concerns were addressed in amendments included by that committee. With those concerns addressed, OSBA is happy to support a bill modeled after grass-roots school board practices aimed at highlighting the needs of some of the traditionally underserved groups of students in the state.