

Submitter: Helen Aurea Taylor  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1552

I have raised four children in the Hillsboro School District. While I am an adamant believer in my local schools, I have made many different decision for my children based on their unique needs. We did two years of an online charter school for my oldest when she was in 5 & 7 grade. In 5th grade she had been experience significant anxiety from attending school. The teachers and staff were amazing, but they just couldn't meet her needs. She did a year of connections academy in their unique gifted curriculum and absolutely thrived and was ready to re-enter lmlay her following year. In 7th grade, the local middle school demanded that she repeat a year of math (she had gotten an A in that subject the year before), because they didn't want her to be academically ahead of her peers. We returned to online school so that her academic needs could be met. She once again returned when she was ready and completed her schooling in the local schools.

Covid has caused our family to make many different decisions. I don't feel that detailing those are helpful, but I do think that this is a time where it is essential to the best fit to help students through their mental, physical and academic needs. Those needs cannot always be best met by the local schools. We should not cap the ability for students to attend the best fit school for their situation. Please support this bill to allow families to choose the best educational fit for their students.