



Oregon  
Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**  
Director of the Department of Education

**TO: Chair Neron & Members of the House Education Committee**

**DATE: Feb 1, 2023**

**FROM: Zoe Larmer, Government Relations Director**

**RE: Question posed regarding HB 2618**

Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide information in response to the questions posed during the public hearing of House Bill 2618. We are more than happy to continue providing information to you on our work and look forward to our continued partnership on behalf of all Oregon students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need further clarification.

With gratitude,  
Zoe Larmer

### **Questions & Answers For HB 2618**

**Question: Does the Oregon Department of Education hire speech language pathologists (SLPs) directly?**

***Response:***

No - school districts, education service districts, and early intervention/early childhood special education programs directly hire or contract SLPs (and other medically-licensed personnel such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, licensed clinical social workers, etc.).

**Question: Is it the Oregon Department of Education's responsibility to understand the caseload of their employees?**

***Response:***

As noted above, the Oregon Department of Education does not hire staff directly on behalf of school districts, education service districts, and early intervention/early childhood special education programs.



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The Oregon Department of Education is aware that there are workload and staffing issues throughout the state. As it relates to school health services, the Oregon Department of Education only collects staffing and student acuity data for school nursing as required by [ORS 336.201](#). The Oregon Department of Education submits a [school nurse report](#) to the state legislature by October 1st of every year. The Oregon Department of Education does not have regulatory authority over medically-licensed staff practicing in school settings. The scope of practice for medically-licensed staff is set by their respective licensing boards. A licensee must practice in accordance with their licensing board rules regardless of the practice setting. A high caseload may impact their ability to adhere to the requirements of their licensing board.