

Submitter: Lisa Harlan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2656

To: House Committee on Education
From: Lisa Harlan, Assistant Superintendent, Greater Albany Public Schools
RE: Support for HB 2656, Elevate Student Voice Act

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee—

My name is Lisa Harlan and I am here today as the Assistant Superintendent of the Greater Albany Public Schools to express my support for House Bill 2656, the Elevate Student Voice Act.

As an educator of 23 years, and a parent, I think it is critical that we consider students' experience in our systems. As educators and adults in the system, we feel like we are doing our absolute best for students. We believe we are doing things well, but students will tell you the truth. When we ask students if they have friends at school, if they feel a sense of belonging, if they feel safe at school, if they can participate in extracurricular activities, if they have access to educational opportunities. This information helps schools and districts know exactly how students are feeling and what we need to do to provide systems that better support students. We value what students are experiencing in schools, and we need this data to better respond to the experiences and needs of students. Additionally, these surveys ask critical questions that help the state and ODE to better target resources and support where it's needed most.

We have used the results of the SEED survey to examine the staffing of counselors at our schools, to resource our mental health partnerships based on need. It tells us as a district where we need afterschool tutoring, where we need to expand extracurricular opportunities, and how we are doing with our high school students and their post-secondary interests.

With increased participation in these surveys of students, we will get better data which leads to more targeted resourcing and support. That I certainly how we have used it effectively in our district.

This is an important part of our state assessment systems in Oregon. As with all other forms of state assessment, in math, reading and English, as we ensure our schools, our systems and students are adapting to the post-covid and hybrid conditions of learning it is a perfect time to think about this as an added value towards a better future in Oregon.

This bill creates an advisory committee to take a deep dive into Oregon school accountability framework and the key indicators that help us understand student learning and school climate. As Oregon has to comply with the federal Every Student

Succeeds Act, we can use the data from SEED and SHS in considerations of how Oregon updates its school accountability framework.

Thank you for your time today and I encourage the committee to vote YES on HB 2656.

Lisa Harlan
Assistant Superintendent
Greater Albany Public Schools