



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
707 13th Street SE, Ste. 100
Salem, Oregon 97301
Phone 503-581-3141
www.cosa.k12.or.us

Date: March 6, 2023
To: House Committee On Education
From: Morgan Allen, on behalf of COSA
Subject: HB 2703 - Oppose

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Morgan Allen and I am here today on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) to share our opposition to House Bill 2703. COSA represents over 2,800 administrators across Oregon who serve in roles ranging from principals, to central office administrators, to superintendents.

Mandated Bargaining District-Wide Is Not Focused on Equitable Student Investments

At a time when conversations about equity are at the forefront, contract language requiring equivalent class sizes across district schools is a conversation about equality, not equity. HB 2703 will make it harder for districts to invest resources in schools and students that need them the most.

COSA supported passage of Senate Bill 580 during the 2021 Session, which made class size a mandatory subject of bargaining for Title 1 schools and a permissive subject of bargaining for non-Title I schools. Our support was contingent on the idea that smaller class sizes could be bargained and targeted where it would be most beneficial for the students.

Additionally, the Student Success Act already allows us to address class size and workload issues. School districts across Oregon have the resources available to lower class sizes where we can all agree they are too large. If the staff and community feedback process includes a desire to lower class sizes, there are significant dollars available to make these types of targeted investments.

This bill takes the focus off what school districts and educators should be most focused on - targeting resources to schools and programs that support our historically underserved students who are primarily served by Title I eligible schools.

School districts already spend around 86% of their resources on personnel – primarily teachers. The rest is needed to pay for supplies, utilities, transportation, and other operational expenses. When Oregon's next recession hits, you should expect to see significant impacts on the school calendar.

If school districts are required to negotiate all class sizes into contracts you will see school days and programs cut during the next inevitable recession in Oregon. When budgets are short and cuts must be made – and there are district wide class size requirements in contracts – that only leaves days and programs to cut.

House Bill 2703, though well intentioned, is not the solution to class size issues. Funding and collaboration is. I appreciate the opportunity to be here with you today and would be happy to answer any questions.