



Allison Galvin
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Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, Members of the House Education Committee:

For the record, I am Allison Galvin, Executive Director at Oregon Charter Academy. Oregon Charter Academy is the state's most tenured nonprofit, independently operated virtual public charter school, serving students in Oregon for nearly 18 years. Thank you for hearing HB 3204 and for the opportunity to share the importance of ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in administering the 3% cap on virtual charter school enrollment. In our many years of experience working with families seeking to enroll their children in our school, we have become aware of obstacles and challenges that they face when encountering the 3% cap and navigating the appeals process. This bill seeks to reduce many of those challenges and streamline the process for parents and school districts while centering the educational needs of students, which is why we are all here.

Currently, families must wait up to 14 days for a district to respond whether or not the district will be denying the student's enrollment into a virtual public charter school due to their district being at 3%. Within existing law, the district is allowed to use any enrollment number from the past 12 months as the basis for their calculation. Additionally, the districts are not required to submit any evidence of their calculation, leaving families needing to trust that the district calculation of 3% is an accurate one. The family then has the right to appeal a district denial within 10 days, strictly based on whether the district followed the proper protocols currently in place. This appeal goes to ODE who has 30 days to respond. It is only at this point that the district will be requested to demonstrate the calculation used to deny enrollment based on 3%.

This current process often subjects students to being out of school for up to 60 days while they await a decision, and the responsibility lies solely on the family. HB 3204 with the -1 amendments reduces that burden by shortening the timeline and expediting the decision-making process by providing a central database managed by ODE that houses the most recent, verifiable enrollment numbers on which to base the 3% calculation. The integrity and availability of the enrollment data is a shared responsibility of the virtual schools, the school districts, and ODE, removing as much as possible the burden and uncertainty for parents. Virtual schools already submit monthly enrollment reports to every district. With the -1 amendments, HB 3204 will continue that practice, but also requires virtual schools to submit these monthly reports to ODE who can easily compile all of the virtual school enrollment data, which will support the work of the districts. This central reporting system not only creates more up-to-date and consistent data but also creates transparency for each stakeholder group, ODE, the districts, and most importantly, the impacted families.



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Oregon values transparency in government. HB 3204 with the -1 amendments is a bill that provides transparency and efficiency within our systems where the burden of this appeals process shifts from the family to the governmental agencies where it belongs. Where a parent chooses to send their child to school is critically important, and the decision to deny that access is potentially life-altering for that student. If these decisions hinge on the 3% cap, essentially a math problem, we should do everything possible to ensure that the calculation is accurate and based on the most recent information available.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with the committee today, and I am happy to take any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Galvin".

Allison Galvin
Executive Director
Oregon Charter Academy



Nearly 20 Years of Virtual
Schooling Experience

Oregon Charter Academy (ORCA) is an online, tuition-free charter school serving grades K-12. ORCA students utilize 21st Century Skills of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking to prepare for the rapidly changing economies of tomorrow.

Oregon Charter Academy (ORCA), formerly known as Oregon Connections Academy, is an independently operated Oregon School. ORCA broke free from the corporate management model (EMO) in order to create a transparent, equitable, and dynamic learning environment that can respond to the needs of all students in need of virtual education.

Why Oregon Charter Academy?

- ASCEND Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program
 - Career Pathways in Computer Science, Medical Science, Veterinary Science, Hospitality & Tourism, and Business & Management
- AVID: Advancement via Individual Determination
 - AVID is a college readiness program designed to close achievement gaps and prepare all students for success after high school.
- College Now (dual credit) opportunities with Linn Benton Community College, Chemeketa Community College, and Willamette Promise
- Student Government for students in grades 5-12
- National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society
- Teen Parent Program
- Over 45 student-centered and facilitated clubs are offered covering topics from Biomimicry Design to ESports
- Continued partnership with NASA and the ARISS Program
 - Oregon Charter Academy was one of 10 organizations (and the only virtual school) nationwide involved in the ARISS program where students were able to interview astronaut Dr. Shannon Walker aboard the International Space Station in December of 2021

What the data shows:

- State Assessments: Oregon Charter Academy outperformed the state average by 11% on the ELA State Assessments, by 5% on the Math State Assessments, and by 15% on the Science State Assessments
 - ORCA 11th graders outperformed the state by almost 25% on the ELA State Assessment (70.6% passing)
- College Credit: Over 1,365 students have earned college credit through our College Now partnerships
- CTE: The second graduating class of ORCA's ASCEND program earned a total of 102 industry certifications
- Post-Secondary: ORCA students have been awarded nearly \$1 million in scholarships in 2021-22
- Graduation Rate: On average, 90% of students who attend ORCA for their entire senior year will graduate, regardless of credit deficiency rate
- Quality of Program: Cognia (formerly AdvancEd) scored ORCA in 2020-21 as a 377.5 out of 400
 - The average score for all Cognia accredited schools over the past five years is 278.34 to 283.33
 - Cognia honored ORCA as an "School of Distinction". Only school on West Coast to be recognized

Oregon Charter Academy is supporting at-risk and underserved students:

Overall: **87.5%*** of families that have enrolled for 2022-23 enrolled because their needs were not being met by local offerings.

External Factors:

- 28% enrolled because they did not want their child in a building during COVID
- 24% of students enrolled due to needing a more flexible schedule than that offered in a traditional setting

Previous School Factors (both increased over the previous year):

- 15.4% of parents stated they enrolled their child due to dissatisfaction with their local district
- 17.1% of parents enrolled their child due to ORCA providing a safe (social, physical and emotional safety) environment

ORCA has been able to support students' success in graduating who were at-risk of not graduating (students with parents incarcerated, caring for grandparents or siblings, working full time jobs, severe health issues, etc.)

*Data based on parents who responded to surveys.