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To: House Committee on Education
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 3236
Date: March 20, 2023

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

On behalf of the OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to register concerns on House Bill 3236.

HB 3236 would deliver \$2.85 million from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to the Willamette Career Academy, and would allow “regional career and technical education programs” within ESDs to apply directly for these types of funds going forward.

OSBA does not take a position on the funding to Willamette Career Academy. However, the language in the bill that would allow for regional CTE programs would be a substantial change in policy. Currently, the permissible uses for SEIA funding are true statewide challenges, including nutrition, high school success, summer learning, and early warning system creation. Regional CTE programs, while valuable, are regional, not statewide. Using SEIA funding for regional programs would likely come at the expense of other, existing programs that are funded by the SEIA.

Furthermore, this change to statute to fund one CTE program would likely incentivize similar action from other regional CTE programs in the future. This would mean further depletion of existing resources; if there is a direct funding opportunity for regional CTE programs, then these programs likely apply for this funding. However, it could also lead to further program overlap with community colleges. Currently, school districts and community colleges generally do a good job avoiding program overlap. But there have been instances where a new CTE program at a school has been very similar to an existing community college program without any corresponding enrollment need. Situations like this should be avoided.

Please consider these concerns and consider removing the direct funding for regional CTE programs language from the bill.