



Bill: House Bill 2676
Position: Support
Name: Todd Nicholson, Program Administrator –Multnomah Education Service District
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Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright and members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing about House Bill 2767, which will create a long-term, sustainable funding and governance model for recovery high schools in Oregon. Recovery high schools provide a supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders and it is critical that Oregon begin investing in these life-saving programs.

It is my good pleasure to be the planning principal of a new envisioned recovery school called Rivercrest Academy. Once we open our doors in September, we will be only the second recovery high school in Oregon. It is critical that Oregon begin investing in adolescents struggling with substance use disorder.

HB 2767 is the result of an interim interagency workgroup commissioned by HB 5202 in 2022 and offers a clear, collaborative path forward to support, expand and govern recovery high schools across the state.

Right now, Oregon ranks nearly last in the nation for providing treatment services to youth — it is long past time to change this. Recovery schools offer a clear, successful and long-term solution.

On behalf of the Multnomah Education Service District, I urge you to support HB 2767 and ask for a YES vote on this critically-needed legislation,

Appreciatively,

Todd L. Nicholson, NCSP

Multnomah Education Service District

Superintendent *Dr. Paul Coakley*