



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Support for SB 987
PERS & Public Charter Schools

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, our state's charter support organization and are a coalition of community-based, public charter schools representing all corners of our state. We represent approximately 26,000 public school students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, operating in about 100 buildings.

Charter schools are small individual public employers, required by statute to participate in the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). Currently public charter schools, for the purposes of PERS, are categorized in the School District Pool (Rate Code 3000) and pay that standard rate.

The problem:

- Public Charter schools, while most often authorized by school districts, differ in significant ways from districts (large public employers). Specifically, charter schools:
 - Are small independent public employers
 - Have substantially fewer employees than a school district
 - Have a far smaller budget than a school district, or even than a district run public school (*charter schools are only required to receive 80% of ADMw--the state school fund allocation--per pupil. The authorizing district can retain the remaining 20% of funds*)
 - Have more Tier III employees than most districts and district run schools
 - Have younger employee pools

SB 987:

While we've brainstormed ideas with legislators, staff, and PERS board staff we recognize we need more information and analysis in order to determine what options, if any, may be feasible to capture the unique nature of charter school staffing and be reflected in the PERS rate they pay.

We hope to be able to work with PERS board staff during the interim to engage in this analysis and study with your support of SB 987.