



LOGOS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Innovative Education Kindergarten to Career

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3/28/23

Re: Support SB987

Dear Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

Charter schools, like Logos Public Charter School, are currently required by statute to participate in PERS. That has not stopped many charter schools to look for ways to employ their staff as contractors due to the heavy burden that PERS puts on public charter schools. This is due to the fact that **while public charter schools are required by contract with their sponsoring district to pass through 20% of K-8 students and 5% of 9-12 students to their district, many times they are still required to have a PERS rate in some cases that is higher than their sponsoring district.**

Our business manager has estimated that we are operating at approximately 65% of current district funding. This is due to many factors:

- Charter schools do not have access to other funding streams like bond money.
- While districts could charge less than the 80% pass through allowed by statute, most do not.

Based on the PERS Employer Projection Tool

Our local district projected 23-25 PERS rates: Tier 1/2 = 25.54%, OPSRP = 22.27%
Logos projected 23-25 PERS rates: Tier 1/2 = 30.01%, OPSRP = 26.74%

While we are unsure why exactly our rates are projected to be higher it could be that many districts have a large enough funding stream to be able to participate in side accounts, that charter schools simply cannot afford. This has led to charter schools seeking ways to leave PERS, which is not best for PERS and is not best for the employees.

We serve almost 1200 students. We produce great results. Last year's graduation rate was 93.24% and we graduated 59 kids with college associates degrees at the same time they received their high school diploma. However, if PERS rates for charter schools are not studied and possibly adjusted, charter schools could eventually fail in Oregon.

Please support SB987.

Thank you,

Sheryl Zimmerer
Executive Director

Logos Public Charter School is an accredited K-12 school that is dedicated to graduating critical thinkers who can communicate effectively in the 21st century. Logos facilitates a personalized learning program through a collaborative partnership between the student, family, teacher, school, and community.