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Director of the Department of Education

House Bill 2275 – Steps Forward in Grant Consolidation
Senate Education Committee
April 27, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the committee, I am Nicole Peterson, Legislative Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2275.

In the 2019 session, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) received a budget note to study the various K-12 Grant-in-Aid programs to determine if some programs could be combined with other programs or eliminated, in order to support better alignment of our system and ease administrative burdens for school districts. ODE conducted an analysis, including engagements with education partners, and developed a set of recommendations to address challenges for school districts and other grantees caused by significant legislative shifts in the Grant-In-Aid portfolio, to a total of 108 grants the Department administers.

Now in 2023, ODE is in the process of implementing the results of the grant consolidation study. While HB 2275 does not combine or eliminate programs, these changes are a next step forward in building an efficient and coherent education system.

Among the identified changes in this bill:

- It would ask that Student Investment Account (SIA) application requirements for school districts include recommendations of each dedicated Student Success Plan Advisory body. School districts and grantees will be asked to reference these as they develop their overall strategic planning efforts, and further meet the goals of the Student Success Act.
- Youth Corrections Education Program / Juvenile Detention Education Program schools could receive a minimum funding floor for the Student Investment Account, similar to the minimum funding floor for school districts.
- The American Indian / Alaska Native Student Success Plan would be allowed additional flexibility in contracting, which is necessary given the Plan's unique needs in partnering with the sovereign tribes.
- This will consolidate the statutes that govern accelerated learning, which will simplify districts' planning for program expansion.



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- In collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, ODE would be able to determine how funds from the Accelerated College Credit Account would be distributed among existing grant programs.
- It would change the reporting date of a public charter school grant from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to February 1st, aligning with other Student Success Act legislative reporting dates.

In passing HB 2275, we will create more operational alignment at the Department, provide clarity for school districts in Oregon, and increase our state's ability to better support students. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Peterson
Legislative Coordinator