



**COALITION OF  
OREGON SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS**



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Date: February 5, 2024

To: [House Committee On Business and Labor](#)

From: Parasa Chanramy, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators  
Lori Sattenspiel, Oregon School Boards Association

Subject: Letter of Support for HB 4118 - Oregon Youth Apprenticeships

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Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa, and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon School Boards Association, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 4118.

Collectively, our members serve over half a million students across 197 school districts.

Youth apprenticeship programs reflect important partnerships between school districts, and local business and industry partners.

While participating in a youth apprenticeship program, students are also enrolled in: i) academic classes to work towards their graduation requirements; ii) in a youth apprenticeship-related course; and iii) are also employed by a participating employer.

Through these programs, students are able to see first-hand how what they are learning is relevant and career-connected. They are also able to better understand pathways into more professions, and what critical skills and experiences are necessary to be successful.

**Hillsboro School District Spotlight:**

In August 2022, the Hillsboro School District launched Oregon's first-of-its-kind, industry-recognized and registered youth apprenticeship program: the [Hillsboro Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship](#).

This innovative two-year program provides a pathway for high school students, ages 16-18, to receive hands-on, paid training that prepares them for a career in advanced manufacturing, and provides employers with an expanded and diversified skilled workforce.



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House Bill 4118 directs the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to study youth apprenticeships. We believe that this study will be valuable in understanding:

- Ways to improve the alignment and coordination of youth apprenticeship programs that are designed for high school students, and adult apprenticeship programs for adults (ages 18-24)
- Opportunities and pathways for high school students to work towards industry certification while they participate in their youth apprenticeship program
- Different methods to assess a student's participation in a youth apprenticeship program, and their progress towards earning their industry certification and credentials – specifically time-based and competency-based measures

Our hope is that this study serves as a springboard for identifying and removing barriers for emerging youth apprenticeship programs in Oregon. Most importantly, we believe that these programs can help more students: stay engaged through career-connected learning, see what possible careers exist and have a plan to reach their goals, and experience post-secondary success.

Please join us in supporting HB 4118.