



COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS



Oregon
SMALL
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION



OAESD
OREGON ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICTS



Support for House Bill 3037

Our K-12 organizations support [House Bill 3037](#). Of our 197 school districts in Oregon, nearly two-thirds are small districts – serving 1,650 students or fewer.

For small districts, HB 3037 will help strengthen shared accountability by enhancing efforts to:

- Right-size non-competitive state-funded grant and reporting requirements
- Reduce the administrative burden and volume of bureaucratic steps
- Modify the minimum funding floors for state grants so that small and rural districts can receive a meaningful amount of funding to be able to support students

With HB 3037, K-12 leaders leading small and rural districts will be able to maximize the amount of time spent on supporting students and families, educators and staff, and communities.

Current Challenges – High Volume of State Requirements, Little Support for Small School Districts

Many small districts operate with limited administrative staff, meaning that grant applications and reporting requirements take time away from direct support for students, staff, and schools.

Grant programs and reporting requirements have expanded rapidly without coherent systems in place to administer them, and with very little differentiation or right-sizing for small and rural schools. The number of state and federal grant programs ODE administers have increased over the years from 34 grants in 2003 to over 130 grants by 2023.

Some state grants don't provide a minimum funding floor for small districts to create or sustain an impactful program. Instead of hiring staff or launching a program, these grants often go unclaimed, or lead to piecemeal efforts that have a limited impact on long-term student success.

House Bill 3037 – Proactive Solutions to Increase Support for Small School Districts

HB 3037 continues that support to small and rural districts which account for 66% of the 197 districts in Oregon by allowing ODE to streamline the grant process for small and rural districts. This bill aligns with the state goals on shared accountability, will help alleviate the administrative burden, support K-12 leaders in focusing on instructional leadership, supporting educators and staff, and addressing student needs.

Under the bill, ODE may modify grant applications, reporting requirements, and funding floors for small districts receiving non-competitive, state-funded grants.

HB 3037 is a commonsense set of proactive policy solutions with a limited fiscal impact. The changes are long overdue, especially for our small and rural district leadership who are balancing multiple hats and a variety of responsibilities.