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Haley Percell

TO: House Education Committee

FROM: Emielle Nischik, Executive Director

DATE: January 27, 2025

RE: HB 2140

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, Members of the Committee:

OSBA is pleased to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2140, which codifies changes utilized to calculate the State School Fund CSL for 25-27 as an ongoing practice.

In multiple biennia, the legislative session began with a projected CSL figured for the State School Fund that education advocates could not agree with. Prior calculations were at times hundreds of millions off from where school business officials calculated as the amount needed to avoid cuts in the following biennium. This year, we are beginning session with a CSL figure that state budget writers and education stakeholders alike can stand behind. This is thanks to the leadership of Governor Kotek and the time her team spent convening the various players during the interim to find alignment in how the CSL calculation could better reflect the actual needs of schools.

Following that work, we are starting the 2025 session with a CSL calculation of \$11.36 billion, which is over \$500 million more than the previous calculation would have come in at. This shift is monumental. It protects our vital programming and allows all of us to focus our time and energy on the targeted investments that will most impact Oregon students.

We need to ensure this work has a lasting impact by making the recent changes a permanent part of the State School Fund CSL calculation going forward. By codifying this process in statute we guarantee that:

- CSL is a roll-up from the funding districts receive in the second year of the biennium (51% of the biennial allocation)
- Local revenue is accounted for on an annual basis, not once during the biennium

With these changes, we reduce much of the discrepancy between state and local CSL calculations and it's important that this work continue, regardless of who may be sitting in the Governor's office.

We are incredibly grateful for the 25-27 CSL projections and for the sake of Oregon's current and future students, we urge the passage of HB 2140. Thank you.