



PORTLAND
Public Schools



February 3, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, we write to share our full support for HB 2596, which will create an Interstate Compact for School Psychologists (ICSP).

An interstate compact for School Psychologists would allow professionals in good standing to practice in all states that join the compact. Such a compact would enable states to collaboratively address shared problems and respond to national challenges and priorities with one unified voice. The ICSP has several benefits for school psychologists, including promoting uniform practices and credentialing criteria. The ICSP also benefits students by offering them greater access to school-based academic and mental and behavioral health services.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a school psychologist-to-student ratio of 1:500 to ensure comprehensive and preventative services are provided to all students. However, according to ongoing data collection on national school psychologist shortages, Oregon's 2023-2024 ratio was 1:1,279, far from NASP's recommended ratio. The role of districts and schools has expanded significantly to keep up with the complex needs of our students today. We need to continue improving and expanding our multi-tiered systems of support, and this is a step in the right direction. We also need the state to continue building on investments into the State School Fund to ensure that schools have the mental and behavioral health staff that our students need and deserve.

The ICSP will allow qualified school psychologists to provide direct services to students, families, and school communities without delay due to application processes. PPS urges your support of HB 2596 to ensure that our students continue to have access to the critically needed mental and behavioral health services within our schools. Thank you.

Jey Buno
Chief of Student Support Services
Portland Public Schools

James Loveland
Senior Director, Student Health and Success
Portland Public Schools