



Date: February 3, 2025
To: Senate Education Committee
From: Parasa Chanramy, COSA
Subject: Testimony in Support of [Senate Bill 896](#)

Good Morning, Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

For the record, my name is Parasa Chanramy with the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators. Our membership organization represents 3,000 administrators who are school principals, central office administrators, and superintendents.

Thank you to the bill sponsor for bringing this bill forward. We wanted to express our general support for the goals of Senate Bill 896 to:

- Use State General Fund dollars to expand access to high-quality after-school learning and enrichment programs for youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade;
- Prioritize funding for youth from rural areas and historically underserved populations; and
- Encourages and supports partnerships across all of the different entities and partners that provide expanded learning or enrichment opportunities.

High-quality afterschool and enrichment programs are essential for keeping youth safe and engaged, increasing attendance in school, and improving academic outcomes ([National Afterschool Alliance - June 2024 Fact Sheet](#)).

Demand for afterschool programs is high. Ninety percent of Oregon families support public funding for afterschool programs. For every child in Oregon currently in an afterschool program, there are three more children waiting to get in. ([National Afterschool Alliance - Oregon Data Profile on Demand](#)).

Even with the high demand, across Oregon, our youth and families still face significant barriers in accessing high-quality afterschool and enrichment programs. These barriers include: costs, transportation, and availability of programs.

As you consider the bill, we wanted to outline a few important policy, funding, and implementation considerations:

- **Sustainability in funding.** It is critical that we consider what sustainable funding looks like for high-quality afterschool and enrichment programs in order to ensure



that youth and families can continue to count on programming and support beyond a budget cycle.

- **Alignment and coordination with other grant-in-aid opportunities.** There are a lot of learnings the state has gleaned from administering the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants and HB 4082 (2024) Summer Learning Grants that would be valuable to consider. For example, program goals and quality standards that are evidenced-based; on-going professional learning and program development; technical assistance and support; and the need for multi-year grants to provide stability in programming.
- **Time to plan and implement.** High-quality afterschool and enrichment programs will require sufficient planning time. Time to connect and coordinate with partners; recruit, hire and train staff; communicate with families; and design high-quality programs that meet the needs of our youth.
- **Additional costs to consider.** Transportation to/from programs, particularly for youth in foster care, and McKinney-Vento eligible youth. Insurance coverage for non-profit entities operating within schools.

Thank you again for your time today, and for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 896.