

March 3rd. 2025

Chair Frederic, Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The Oregon School Psychologist Association (OSPA) is writing in support of SB 717 with a requested amendment. We request that SB 717 be amended to include stipends for school psychologist internship students and supervisors who mentor school psychologist students for licensure. School psychologist students are required to complete a 1,200-hour internship to become licensed. Providing stipends to school psychologists intern students and supervisors is a recruitment strategy that will help address school psychologist shortages.

There is a critical shortage of school psychologists in Oregon. While the National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist for every 500 students, in 2023-24 [Oregon's school psychologist ratio](#) was 1:1,279. Many Oregon districts and Educational Service Districts are serving students with ratios more than 10 times NASP's recommendation or over 5,000 students per school psychologist. Shortages in school psychology significantly limit the availability of high-quality and comprehensive services to students, caregivers, and schools.

School psychologists are [uniquely qualified](#) school-based mental health professionals who serve the entire school community. School psychologists also provide legally mandated and specialized services to students with disabilities who experience a higher prevalence of [mental health needs](#) and [disciplinary exclusions](#). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in [the number of students identified for special education services](#) in Oregon and across the Nation.

We appreciate you considering this request to help improve students' access to critical services by including school psychologists in SB 717. Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is any additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,