



# Wallowa County

## Education Service District

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*Serving: Joseph School District #6, Wallowa School District #12, Enterprise School District #21, Troy School District #54*

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March 5, 2025

Representative Courtney Neron  
Chair, House Committee on Education

RE: Public Input for HB 3037

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the Committee:

I support HB3037 and ask the committee to consider amendment(s) that include small Education Service Districts as eligible entities to receive minimum grant amounts and reduced administrative burden.

I serve as superintendent for both Wallowa ESD and Troy, a K-8 school district located 50 miles from its nearest neighboring town. While small ESDs are not currently included in the language of HB 3037, we often have experiences similar to small school districts in receiving small grants that carry significant administrative requirements.

For Troy SD, grant-in-aid programs provide grant amounts often too small to effect the change or outcomes that the legislature invested in. When compared to the original grant, the requirements attached to these grants (e.g. plans, reporting, fiscal reports) are disproportionately large.

For example, ODE launched a new process for implementing its Integrated Guidance process, the support mechanism used by ESDs to assist districts plan for, use, and report use of dollars received through the Student Success Act. For the new process, Troy School District received an additional \$700. However, it took 37 hrs of staff support to meet the grant requirements - facilitating surveys, holding community engagement events, and submitting the application and the subsequent required reports. It is difficult to justify using this much resource to gain \$700. It is also difficult to argue that \$700 can implement the intended work with fidelity.

HB3037 contains language to support students in districts like Troy and can, if amended, support small ESDs like Wallowa ESD in providing services to students and districts in its region. Establishing minimum grant amounts for small school districts acknowledges that very small grant amounts are insufficient to impact the meaningful change desired by our state leaders. Also, the HB 3037 promise to reduce administrative burden should address an upside down process that costs more in resources to obtain and manage the grant than the aid dollars provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Landon Braden  
Superintendent

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#### Our Vision

We work as a cooperative, creative team, dedicated to enhancing the learning of the communities' children by designing and delivering services responsive to school district needs. Our services strive to demonstrate leadership, wise utilization of resources, cooperative relationships with school districts and other agencies, and a commitment to being a learning and evolving organization.