

LAKE COUNTY EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

357 North L Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
Lane Stratton, Superintendent

Phone: 541.947.3371 / 800.997.2361
Fax: 541.947.3373
www.lakeesd.k12.or.us



March 5, 2025

Representative Courtney Neron and 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 Lake County ESD. We serve approximately 1100 students, in five school districts, that are spread over 8400 square miles. 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 with minimal allowables yet do not adequately fund the program to meet the intended outcomes of the grant.


As an administrator in a frontier ESD, I wear many hats for the ESD and some of the component school districts. For example, I am the Principal/Superintendent for Adel SD, I provide administrative support for Plush SD, I am the Special Education Director for Adel, Plush, and Paisley SDs. I attend 4-6 board meetings monthly. Most of my rural administrators also wear many hats for their districts. In addition, our programs that the ESD provides to the districts are usually run by one person who is the director and facilitator in multiple districts/schools.

In this staffing configuration, with multiple jobs across a large geographic area, minimal grant-in-aid program funding that is restrictive in its allowable use, is not efficient for small ESDs as well as small districts. For example, Lake ESD receives just under \$50,000 a biennium for the Every Day Matters Grant. This funding does not cover the expenses for a sliver of staffing, let alone the costs to run a program for five districts that are in our region. Another example is the School Safety Prevention Specialist Grant that is being reduced from 19 1.0 FTE for all ESDs to 9-11 1.0 regional FTE. The only ESDs that are going to feel the impact of this reduction are the small ESDs. The small ESDs were able to fund a 1.0 FTE for two years that addressed bullying, suicide, and school safety with this grant, that is no longer coming our way. Yet, the ESDs and Small Districts have the same administrative and program requirements that the larger districts have.

HB3037 contains language to support students in districts like Lake, North Lake, Plush, Adel, and Paisley, and can, if amended, support small ESDs like Lake County 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Stratton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lane Stratton,
Superintendent