



Date: March 5, 2025
To: House Education Committee
From: Dandy Stevens, Superintendent of Gervais School District
Subject: Testimony in Support of [House Bill 3037](#)

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

For the record, my name is Dandy Stevens, and I have served as the Gervais School District Superintendent for six years and as an Oregon educator for 28 years.

Gervais serves 900 students in the Willamette Valley and is a district that has been 100% free lunch for the past decade. Last spring, our 70 graduates earned over \$2 million in scholarships and aid, and our elementary ELL students improved from 4% below the state average in ELPA proficiency testing in 2022 to 11% above in 2024.

I strongly support House Bill 3037, which would streamline grants, reports, and funding for small and rural schools.

In my district, administrators wear many hats. Besides being Superintendent, I oversee Teaching and Learning, HR, Title IX, and a \$28 million facilities bond. These roles are very important and necessary but also impact the time I have available to be the instructional leader of the district focusing on advancing student achievement.

Time is a valuable resource. To date, I have spent over 55 hours and still counting on the Integrated Plan which is due in April, 40+ hours on Division 22 reporting, and six of us manage 55 additional reports required by ODE throughout the year. Grant reporting has become more complex, with some requiring multiple revisions before approval.

Minimum funding floors are critical. For example, Gervais is slated to receive just over \$2,200 for the Early Indicator and Intervention System grant—a small amount that will need to be combined with other resources to be impactful yet it still carries significant reporting requirements.

HB 3037 would help ensure that small schools receive meaningful funding and reduce the paperwork burdens so we can focus on students and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 3037.

