

Submitter: Megan Edmundson
On Behalf Of: HB3444
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3444

House Committee On Education
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

As a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

My children attend Springwater Environmental Sciences school as part of public education in Oregon City School District. The current funding pass through is 80%. Year after year our school board and school leadership staff request support and/or additional funding pass through (requesting 85%) and access to participation (at cost) in the district Transportation (bus) program and that support has been denied.

I recognize budget constraints in education. However, districts should not be entitled to keep any percentage of funding without providing equivalent district centralized resources of value to the students that funding is intended to serve. District headcount funding related to charter school students should not be an income center for costs that are not directly serving the students those funds are allotted for. A standardized 95% passthrough would provide equitable access to resources and education for charter school students.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades, students can't access transportation services, food security programs are limited, and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. By passing HB 3444, you can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Megan Edmundson

Oregon City School District Parent
Springwater Charter School Parent