

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerensa Brougham, and I am Advanced Summa Math Teacher (grades 6, 7 & 8) + Gen Ed Math (grade 7) at Beaverton School District. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 3652, which would make class size and caseloads a mandatory subject of collective bargaining in all Oregon schools.

As a Summa teacher in Beaverton, our school is at the mercy of the number of students who qualify for this highly gifted advanced program. There are NO caps on the numbers who can attend our school, and once a student qualifies, they can choose to join Summa at any time (i.e., if they choose to stay at their home middle school in 6th, they can decide to attend Summa at our school instead in 7th).

There are a handful of Summa middle schools in Beaverton, but the students are not distributed evenly. Our school has Summa class sizes of 43 and 46 in two grade levels, 31 in the third, while another school has Summa classes of 20-25 students max. Our Summa numbers for next year are already at 42, without adding students who qualify after OSAS testing finishes in May. This is insane, and makes it impossible to connect with students in any meaningful way.

As a math teacher, I have been forced to make more test questions multiple choice, just so I'm not drowning in grading. This means very little feedback on tests, other than "you got that problem wrong," after a unit where I'm unable to answer all student questions in a class period. We have 88 minute block schedule periods now (which is terrible for other reasons), and with 44 students in the room, if I spent NO time on instruction or taking attendance or anything else, I would have exactly TWO minutes to spend with each student, answering ALL their math questions and checking their work.

Summa is a form of Special Education, albeit at the high end. As Summa teachers, we are expected to go MORE in-depth, and provide a MORE challenging curriculum, with MORE meaningful feedback. However, NO teacher can do even the most basic of those three things with 40+ students in the room.

Finally, because we teach all three grade levels, we have 1.5 times the number of students on our team than the non-Summa teams typically have. So not only do we have huge classes, we also have MORE students to teach/grade/connect with overall.

Again, NO teacher should have class sizes this large, regardless of educational program.

Surveys consistently show that reducing class sizes is a top priority for parents, students, and educators; it's time legislators LISTEN to their constituents, and DO something about this pervasive, ongoing issue.

Please support HB 3652, for the sake of better outcomes with students, retaining good teachers who are otherwise burning out, and parents who have been advocating for their children about this very issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerensa Brougham
Beaverton School District