



Testimony on SB 786
Senate Education Committee

March 10, 2025

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas, and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 786. HECC has no position on this bill.

SB 786 proposes requiring public institutions of higher education to award academic credit for high school students who complete certain career and technical education or student leadership programs that offer opportunities for gaining communication-related skills. The bill aims to standardize credit articulation for these experiences.

Existing processes already allow high school students to earn college credit for the programs and courses through dual credit agreements, credit for prior learning, and other articulation methods. Through institutional accreditation, institutions of higher education traditionally maintain authority over credit evaluation, transfer, and articulation decisions, which this bill could contradict.

Current convening structures between high schools, HECC, the Oregon Department of Education, and higher education institutions provide pathways to address potential inconsistencies in credit articulation through existing processes. Additionally, the Major Transfer Map (MTM) subcommittee supported by the Transfer Council is beginning its work on a Communications Major Transfer Map, which will provide a structured process for addressing credit articulation in this area. Allowing the MTM faculty subcommittee to focus on this area of alignment, including articulation for high school programs and courses, and using the processes that currently exist would be an effective approach to ensuring alignment across institutions, ensuring students who earn the college credits in this way get the best possible and most consistent outcomes.

HECC appreciates the opportunity to provide this clarification and remains available to support any additional discussions. Thank you for your time and consideration.