



Willamette Leadership Academy
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March 8, 2025

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

RE: Support HB3444

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

It is with a very concerned heart that I am standing in front of you today. As one of your constituents and chief executive officer of Willamette Leadership Academy. I am requesting your support of HB344. Willamette Leadership Academy as well as the numerous public charter schools throughout the state are facing devastating funding disparities.

Currently, Willamette Leadership Academy receives a 95% pass through for high school and 80% from our sponsoring district. Unfortunately, due to this outdated Oregon funding model, public charter school students are being shortchanged.

This funding gap has become evident in staff retention, facility maintenance, transportation, classroom supplies, campus technology & campus security.

Many of the students Willamette Leadership Academy serves were unable to be effectively educated, for a variety of reasons, in their district schools. It is becoming increasingly difficult to support our next generation of Oregon youth and to provide the tools they need to become successful leaders.

By passing HB 3444 you will assist in fixing this ongoing disparity by allowing **all** public charter school students to access 95% of the ADMw provided through the

State School Fund. Also by allowing public charter schools to access local, state and federal educational funding dollars that are also currently available to non charter public schools.

All students in Oregon's public education system deserve to have access to fairly funded public education options that meet their needs. On behalf of our teachers, staff and most importantly students, please support HB3444

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arellano
Chief Executive Officer
Willamette Leadership Academy