



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

My name is Cynthia Branger Muñoz, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Education Association (OEA), which represents more than 41,000 educators and education professionals across the state, from pre-K through community colleges. OEA is committed to ensuring that every student in Oregon has access to a high-quality education, and we write today in strong support of HB 2508.

Oregon's student data management system is outdated, making it difficult for schools, districts, and the Oregon Department of Education to efficiently and securely access and transfer student records. This leads to delays that affect students, teachers, and school staff. When records are missing or slow to transfer, students can:

- Lose access to essential special education and support services
- Be placed in the wrong classes or forced to repeat coursework
- Experience disruptions in medical or mental health care provided by the school
- Face unnecessary enrollment delays that affect their learning and well-being

HB 2508 will modernize how student records are managed, ensuring they follow students in real time and that schools spend less time navigating outdated systems and more time focused on student success.

For students who move frequently—such as foster youth, students experiencing homelessness, migrant students, and military-connected students—this bill is especially important. Under the current system, when these students transfer schools, essential records often do not transfer with them in a timely manner. This creates barriers that prevent them from receiving needed services. By standardizing the transfer of transcripts, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 plans, and health records, HB 2508 will ensure students receive uninterrupted support no matter where they attend school.

For educators and school staff, managing student records under the current system is time-consuming and frustrating. Teachers, counselors, and administrators must often:

- Track down missing files across multiple districts and agencies
- Manually enter and verify student data, increasing the risk of errors
- Spend valuable time on paperwork instead of instruction or direct student support

HB 2508 will streamline record-keeping and reduce administrative burdens, allowing educators to focus on teaching and school staff to spend more time supporting students. A modernized data system will also provide school leaders with accurate, real-time information to help with student placement, intervention strategies, and resource planning.

This bill also strengthens the integration of Electronic Health Records (EHR) in schools. As the legislature expands Medicaid funding for school-based health services, schools must have the right

systems in place to efficiently manage and document these services. With a modernized system, school nurses and health staff can:

- Spend less time on paperwork and more time providing direct care
- Ensure that students with chronic conditions receive uninterrupted health services
- Improve Medicaid billing efficiency, maximizing funding for student health services

OEA strongly supports HB 2508 because it will improve educational continuity, reduce administrative burdens, and ensure students receive the support they need without unnecessary delays. Whether it is a teacher accessing academic history, a counselor reviewing an IEP, or a school nurse ensuring a student's medical needs are met, a modern, efficient, and secure student data system benefits everyone.

We urge your support for HB 2508 to ensure Oregon's schools can provide seamless transitions, uninterrupted services, and accurate data-driven support for students and educators alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.