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Dr. Charlene Williams

Director of the Department of Education

HB 2508: Standardized Student Data
House Education Committee
March 10, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Zoe Larmer and I am the Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding House Bill 2508, which seeks to address several issues—including timely transfer of student records between school districts, lack of a standardized method to collect and create student records, fragmented technology platforms making it difficult for schools to bill Medicaid, and reduction of state reporting burden by school districts. ODE has not taken a formal position on the bill.

Our Understanding of the Bill

The bill asks ODE to develop and implement a standardized method to be used by school districts, ESD and ODE to electronically create, collect, use, maintain, disclose, transfer and access student data from multiple platforms.

The bill requires that the method:

- Facilitate transfer of student records
- Facilitate interoperability of electronic health records and maximize Medicaid billing
- Minimize reporting burden for school districts and ESDs
- Ensure ODE has access to student data for research purposes
- Establish student data standards

Some of these features are partially implemented in Oregon.

Creating and implementing such a system would be a large, multi-year effort. ODE staff would develop standards, identify a contractor, and implement the system in partnership with schools and districts. Schools and districts would also need to engage in significant efforts to update their systems, transform data to the new standard, and create systems to transfer data.

Long-term this solution may reduce the burden of district data submission, but much of the data cleaning, error correcting, and validation work would remain with school district staff. Effort would still be needed to clean and validate prior to use for public data reporting.



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Medicaid Billing

Technology plays an integral role in efficient and accurate School Medicaid billing. The absence of statewide technology platforms (such as a student information system, IEP system, electronic health records system, or Medicaid billing submission platform) makes it difficult for education agencies to implement streamlined approaches to billing. Education agency technology must be aligned and integrated to support staff and education agency processes related to tracking student information and data, service provision per individual plans of care, and required health service practitioner documentation.

In addition to optimizing Medicaid revenue, aligned technology platforms would reduce administrative burden, support compliance with health and education rules and regulations, and free up additional resources and staff time to provide more comprehensive school health and behavioral health services to students.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide this information. We appreciate this committee's commitment to serving the students of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Larmer

Government Relations Director