

TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: March 10, 2024
RE: **HB 2508 - Support**

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

My name is Ben Gurewitz, and I am testifying on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon. We are proud to support HB 2508 and thank Rep. Neron for her leadership on this issue. Accurate and timely student records are essential for students, families, and educators. They ensure informed decision-making, continuity of services, and accountability in education. For students with disabilities, timely access to records is critical, as it directly impacts their ability to receive necessary support and services without delay.

Disability Rights Oregon strongly supports HB 2508, which would establish a standardized electronic student data system across Oregon's schools. The outdated current system creates barriers that disproportionately impact students with disabilities, mobile students, and families navigating multiple systems. Delays in transferring IEPs, 504 Plans, and assessment results often mean students lose access to services when changing schools. Families are frequently required to resubmit paperwork, while educators struggle to obtain complete records in a timely manner, leading to service gaps and unnecessary reassessments.

HB 2508 will:

- Ensure that student records, including IEPs and 504 Plans, transfer immediately between districts.
- Reduce reliance on paper files, preventing lost or incomplete records.
- Support highly mobile students, including those in foster care or experiencing homelessness, by making their educational history readily accessible.
- Minimize redundant paperwork for families, easing administrative burdens.

This bill is not just about data—it is about ensuring equity, access, and efficiency in education. Oregon has an opportunity to invest in a modern student data system that will reduce administrative costs and improve student outcomes for years to come. I urge your

yes vote on HB 2508 to ensure accurate, accessible student records that support timely and informed educational decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and “pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies”.² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO’s position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.