

Submitter: Zoe Davis
On Behalf Of: OSEA Chapter 102
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

Dear Oregon House Of Representatives,

My name is Zoe Davis and I work for the West Linn-Wilsonville School District. I have been the lead custodian at Willamette Primary School for the last 7 years.

Our school district operates a full inclusion model. We welcome all students with all needs into our general education classrooms. Our staff is dedicated to providing a robust education for every student. Our school has several students that need one on one support all day, and many more that need support throughout the day. We are drowning!

Tomorrow, March 12th, our district administrators will be notifying approximately 60 certified teachers that they will no longer have jobs next year due to budget cuts. Our classified staff will be notified in the coming weeks. We are already struggling to meet the needs of our children on a daily basis. We keep showing up, because we love the students we serve.

As a custodian I have experienced an uptick in cleaning needs. Many of our special needs students experience more potty accidents in the classroom. In the last 4 years I noticed that I spend more time cleaning up food spills and disinfecting surface due to unexpected bodily fluids. That's my job, and I'm happy to do it. However I never imagined that we would be so short staffed that I would be helping with wheelchair transfers, helping students with toileting, and deescalating students in the hallways. Again, I am happy, and even honored, to help our students in this capacity, but I sure don't remember reading this in the job description. After several incidents of being involved with dis-regulated students, I asked to take Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training so I could help my coworkers. There simply are not enough adults in our buildings to keep everyone safe from physical outbursts.

We need more funding for special education. Without these important services, the impacts to our general classrooms are disastrous. We need more hands, and more training to make progress.

I am asking for your support of HB2953 to help our students with the most significant needs.

Thank you for your time and services to our communities.