



# OREGON EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE

March 17, 2025

Representative Courtney Neron  
Chair, House Committee on Education

RE: Public Input for HB 3014

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Educational Collaborative, I am writing to support House Bill 3014 to make more money available from grants for school districts and ESDs to use for school facilities. Our 30 members, which include school and education service districts, are fully in support of the intent of the bill and are particularly encouraged by the language in Section 4 (2)(d): *All students in this state deserve the opportunity to attend a high quality school that is healthy and safe and, in order to achieve the goal of providing high quality schools that are healthy and safe, additional investment is needed to support school districts that struggle financially to build and maintain schools.* We are also encouraged to see language in HB 3014 which directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules for distribution of funds based on the financial needs of districts, prior attempts to receive voter approval of bonds for capital improvements, the relative poverty in the district as well as the assessed value of taxable property in the district.

Many of our members are in rural districts or in more remote parts of the state, including Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur and Wheeler Counties, where the option to provide local funds for school construction or renovation grants is a significant, if not insurmountable, challenge. This is due to the relatively limited amount of property value within many of these districts when compared to the actual cost of construction. The limited amount of property value is often the result of federal or state-owned lands from which property taxes are not received. Further, being in rural or remote parts of the state, the actual construction costs are higher as the costs of labor, when qualified contractors can be obtained, and materials are higher than in the more populated parts of the state.

We appreciate your efforts to provide healthy and safe school facilities for the students in Oregon's school districts and those being served by education service districts. We urge you to continue this support with the passage of HB 3014.

Sincerely,

Gary Peterson  
Executive Director, Oregon Educational Collaborative