



To: House Education Committee
From: Jackie Olsen, Executive Director, Oregon Association of School Business Officials
Subject: Testimony of House Bill 2673
Date: March 25, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2673-1. The Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) represents school finance professionals and administrators across the state. These individuals are responsible for managing budgets, ensuring regulatory compliance, and overseeing critical operational functions such as transportation, food service, and facilities.

With an increased transition in our school business workforce, there are a growing number of professionals entering the field without formal training in public finance or the operational duties now expected in these roles. There is currently:

- No statewide, comprehensive training program for school finance and operations.
- No foundational coursework in budgeting, financial compliance, or audit readiness.
- No formal mentorship or structured onboarding for new professionals.

With no structured support for navigating financial compliance and no shared baseline for what success looks like, that gap puts our school districts—and ultimately our students—at risk.

HB 2673-1 would appropriate funding to begin development of a statewide professional development program in school financial administration. With this investment, OASBO will:

- Hire a full-time staff member to lead program development.
- Launch a mentorship program for new professionals.
- Create partnerships with higher education institutions to offer college credit.

This program isn't just about technical knowledge—it's about giving people confidence and clarity in high-stakes roles. Without this investment, we will continue to see:

- Budgeting errors and audit findings due to a lack of available training
- Burnout and turnover as professionals face steep learning curves alone
- Missed opportunities for cost savings, grants, and strategic planning

This initiative will strengthen financial stewardship, improve compliance, reduce turnover, and support long-term sustainability in Oregon's K-12 education system. It ensures all districts—regardless of size or location—have access to the training and support needed to manage public funds effectively and responsibly.

We urge your support of HB 2673-1 as a proactive step toward equipping school business officials with the tools and knowledge they need to do their jobs well.