

Submitter:

Stephen St. Amand

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2583

As an employee of a hybrid online charter school (Clackamas Web Academy), I urge you to support House Bill 2583, as we are so much more than a computer loaded with curriculum. As a hybrid school, we provide a true haven for students seeking options to a traditional education, and this goes far beyond online programming. As a teacher and advisor at Clackamas Web Academy, my job breaks into three main components:

1. Managing, creating and grading online course content for approximately 200 high school students.
2. Teaching in-person and live, synchronous classes for approximately two hours a day, five days a week.
3. Serving in an advisory role, in which I am meeting with a group of roughly 25 students and their parents/guardians on a one-on-one basis at least twice a month. In this role, I help keep them on track academically, work on projects and school work, prepare them for college or careers, work on resumes, refer them to vital services if needed, help them find community service options, administer and advocate for students with IEPs and 504 plans, and most importantly, create goals that will help them graduate with the knowledge and skills they need.

Of these three main goals, roughly 80 percent of my jobs is committed to personal and classroom meetings. To simply lump our school with other national online programs is not a fair representation of what we, or other hybrid online schools, provide to our students. We are not a correspondence course; we provide more personal attention to our students than most mainstream schools, and it shows in our results. We are performing above the graduation average in North Clackamas School District, which is significant considering a percentage of our students transfer to us after struggling at traditional schools.

We are extremely proud of what we do, and we believe we are a model of what online education could become. We urge our leaders to support HB 2583 so we can provide a true educational alternative to Oregon's students and families.