

Submitter:

Zoe Booth

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2583

Subject: Supporting HB 2583: Ensuring Equitable Funding for Online Charter School Students

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Esteemed Members of the Oregon House Education Committee,

My name is Zoe Booth, I am the Assistant Principal of Clackamas web Academy as well as a former parent of 3 students that attended CWA. I am writing to you today to express my strong support for House Bill 2583.

As a parent and educator, I've witnessed firsthand the remarkable impact CWA has had on not only my children's but all student's education. The school's commitment to rigorous academic standards and personalized learning has been instrumental in student success. I've seen significant growth not only in academic performance but also in their development as a responsible and engaged citizen.

I understand that CWA currently faces restricted access to funding from the Student Investment Account (SIA), relying heavily on the High School Success Grant. However, the outcomes speak for themselves. Under the leadership of Principal Brad Linn, CWA has achieved impressive results:

Increased Graduation Rates: The graduation rate has risen from 78% to 88% between 2019 and 2024, surpassing both district and state averages.

College Credit and Service Learning: The Class of 2024, a cohort of 110 students, earned a staggering 2,216 college credits and contributed 4,400 service learning hours across Oregon.

Rigorous Graduation Requirements: CWA's mandatory 40-hour internship and 40-hour community service requirements demonstrate a commitment to holistic education and real-world experience.

Academic Excellence: Students consistently outperform Oregon state averages in Science and Language Arts (OSAS) assessments and exceed national averages on the PSAT.

These achievements are a direct result of the dedicated and fully licensed teachers at CWA, who are all credentialed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). It's important to acknowledge that concerns about online charter schools' use of SIA funds have been raised. However, as a parent and educator, I can attest to the responsible and effective use of limited SIA funding at CWA. These funds support critical investments in:

New technology

Expanded access to college-level and Career Technical Education (CTE) courses

Extended learning opportunities

Social-emotional learning (SEL) supports

Engaging curriculum materials

These investments directly align with the intended goals of SIA grants and are essential for providing a high-quality education to our children.

HB2583 represents a crucial step towards ensuring equitable resource distribution, allowing students at online charter schools like CWA to benefit fairly from state funding. Denying online charter schools access to these funds, is denying students equal access to the resources they need to succeed.

I urge you to support HB2583. My children, and countless other students, deserve the same opportunities as those in traditional brick and mortar schools.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Zoe Booth