



Inspiring Today's Students to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

2845 Greensprings Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Phone: 541-883-5000 FAX: 541-883-6677

Email: szymoniakg@kcsd.k12.or.us

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House Education Committee Testimony

Good afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Glen Szymoniak. I am the Superintendent of Klamath County School District, and I have dedicated 45 years to education, including 19 years as a Superintendent.

I am here today to testify in support of **HB 2052** because it reinforces the fundamental expectation that students attend school—an essential step toward accountability in education.

I have had the privilege of working in school systems with exceptionally high expectations for student attendance, behavior, and academic performance. In one district of just 1,000 students, over 90% passed the **SBAC**, with many scoring at the advanced level. Reaching those final 15-20% of students required significant effort. Those were often in special services or English language learner programs. Yet, the outcome was remarkable: a student body equipped with the confidence and skills to tackle challenges throughout their educational journey.

In Klamath County School District, I want our students to have the same opportunities for success. That requires clear and high expectations for teachers, rigorous instructional standards, and strong school leadership. However, I cannot hold educators accountable for student achievement when **chronic absenteeism is at 20% and there are no consequences for truancy**.

Accountability in education must start with attendance.

If superintendents and school boards had the authority to impose fines for absenteeism, few would be willing to take that step. But those who did would see improved student performance. **The legislature has the critical responsibility to establish and enforce accountability measures across Oregon's education system.** Holding teachers, principals, and schools accountable while allowing students to miss school without consequence is counterproductive.

I urge you to support HB 2052 to ensure that accountability in education begins where it matters most—with students being present and engaged in their learning.

Thank you.

Glen Szymoniak, Superintendent
Klamath County School District