

Support for HB 2583

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire, and members of the House Education Committee,

I am Dr. Christina Struyk-Bonn, the Executive Director from the Metro East Web Academy. Our K-12 online charter has been independently managed since its inception and its charter is held by the Gresham Barlow School District.

When our charter school began in 2009, our purpose was to re-engage the unengaged. The district had determined that there were about 500 students who were no longer attending school and they wanted to provide an option for this educationally disengaged population. Serving these students continues to be our mission today.

Our student population is considered at-risk for graduating on time. We have a 50% mobility rate which means half of our students are new to us each year, and many of them have been in multiple schools throughout their educational career. Our high school students come to us behind in credits: our 9th graders are typically a full credit behind in their second semester, our 10th graders average 2 credits behind, our 11th graders average 4 credits behind or an entire semester, and our 12th graders average 7 credits behind, or an entire year. Our 5th, 6th, 7th year seniors average 9 credits behind. In 2024, we graduated 49 6th and 7th year seniors and GED students. Many of these students are not captured in data since grad rates of 6th and 7th year seniors are not tracked. And yet, when these students walk across the stage at graduation, we are celebrating because many of them didn't think they were going to finish high school or felt that the system had given up on them.

The Student Investment Account was passed to improve student achievement and reduce achievement gaps, particularly for historically underserved students. Our online high school is the most diverse online high school in the state of Oregon. Those are our students. They demonstrate academic disparities, mental and behavioral health issues, and have struggled to stay in school. These students need access to the same funding that their counterparts in the brick and mortar schools receive and yet, they are receiving far less monetary support.

We fully support HB2583 and would use this funding source to add reading support, math support, and social work support for our students if we were to receive this funding. We urge your support of this bill without the amendment.

Thank you,



Dr. Christina Struyk-Bonn  
Executive Director  
Metro East Web Academy