



MALHEUR

EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

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Jerry Peacock
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Matt Mejia
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01 April 2025

RE: Public Testimony, Support for HB 3552

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Mark Redmond, Superintendent of Malheur ESD.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 3552 and the -3 amendment. The amendment provides much needed and long overdue state directed backbone funding for CTE in Oregon. We are all aware of the significant outcomes students exposed to CTE have in both attendance and graduation rates, especially if they are CTE Completers in a Program of Study. This bill provides a regional backbone structure for regional CTE hubs, similar to STEM hubs, early learning hubs, and Regional Educator Networks. The structure of the regional CTE hub advisory board is inclusive of all partners; including industry, workforce boards, community colleges, educators, districts, and ESD's. The Hub's task is coordinating and creating clear alignment between student interest and aptitude data, local industry needs, and alignment of programs from middle school through post secondary. I've uploaded a presentation by Scott Nine, former ODE assistant superintendent, that he presented to a legislative committee in the Fall of 2023. If you are new, or maybe haven't seen the presentation yet, I'd encourage you to take a look at it because he highlights the benefits of CTE, state directed funding of CTE and how it compares to other states, and suggests several opportunities for the direction of CTE in the state. The first two suggestions he makes are a regional state funded backbone structure and the development of regional centers.

The current system of backbone funding in the state is a patchwork of funding streams uniquely different in each consortium. Regional coordination is now limited to 30% of Perkins Basic, and providers now use more Reserve funding, or funding from multiple sources to staff the regional positions. Meanwhile, the workload and requirements for regional coordination has dramatically increased over the last 8 years with increases in CTE programs as a result of High School Success, the development of CTE Revitalization, the addition of Career Pathways, and now Integrated Programs Coordination for the Student Success Act. All of these are state directed dollars, however, the backbone and structure supporting these programs is predominantly Federal funds and a mix of other funding sources.

Having a stable, state funded backbone structure, independent of Federal funding, will provide the necessary



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capacity to ensure career connected learning is occurring efficiently from middle school through post-secondary. The CTE Regional Hub will provide the foundation to build on CTE programs going forward, and allow the state to have the regional capacity to insure future CTE initiatives are high quality, aligned, and fully supported.

I'd also like to acknowledge the work of Dr. Joe Morlock at Willamette ESD in regard to the development of Regional Career Centers. Although funding is limited, and the backbone needs to be in place to support RCC's, as a state we need to continue to look for and pursue RCC's in the future. RCC's may not be a viable solution for rural areas where I'm from, but in areas with sufficient student populations, we need to really focus our attention on RCC's going forward once a backbone structure is in place.

Respectively Submitted,

Mark Redmond, Superintendent
Malheur ESD.