



Representative Hòa Nguyễn
Oregon House District 48

SB 315 - RECORDING OF STUDENT ABSENCES

4/28 House Education Committee

As the State Representative for House District 48, I proudly represent North Clackamas and South East Portland. I am here today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 315, a critical step in addressing chronic absenteeism across Oregon.

As the eldest daughter of Vietnamese refugees, an educator, a member of the David Douglas School Board, and a Student and Community Engagement Specialist, I have seen firsthand how attendance is directly tied to student success. Chronic absenteeism is not simply a matter of missed days—it is often a reflection of deeper systemic barriers: family instability, transportation challenges, mental health struggles, and students feeling disconnected from their school communities.

Today, chronic absenteeism rates in Oregon remain alarmingly high, putting thousands of students—especially those from historically underserved communities—at greater risk of falling behind academically, disengaging socially, and not completing their education. We cannot address what we cannot see clearly.

SB 315 moves us forward by requiring the Oregon Department of Education to:

- Review how districts record and respond to absences.
- Develop best practices for supporting students who miss more than 10 days.
- Create a consistent, statewide absence coding system that considers the diversity of our school districts—both urban and rural.

By standardizing how we track and respond to absences, we can better identify patterns early, allocate resources more effectively, and build interventions that meet students where they are. This bill ensures we are

not just recording attendance as a compliance measure but using it as a tool to support the whole child.

Importantly, SB 315 also requires stakeholder engagement, ensuring that educators, families, and community partners have a voice in shaping how we address absenteeism in culturally responsive and equitable ways.

North Clackamas and South East Portland—like many parts of our state—are growing rapidly and becoming increasingly diverse. We must be proactive. We must build systems that recognize the challenges families face and work with them to ensure every student can attend, engage, and succeed.

I urge your support for SB 315. Let's equip our schools with the tools and guidance they need to bring students back into our classrooms and into their full potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.