

COALITION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Date:	May 9, 2025
То:	Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
From:	Parasa Chanramy, COSA
Subject:	COSA Letter of Support for the Siletz Valley School Revitalization and Safety Improvements Project

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

We write this letter to express our support for providing \$1.25 million for the Siletz Valley School Revitalization and Safety Improvement Project.

## Siletz Valley School students and staff need and deserve a safe and secure place to learn, work, and play.

Siletz Valley School is a K-12 public charter school that has waited a long time to be able to improve their school which is the hub of their community. Due to their charter status, they are unable to apply for grants or bonds.

# Their building was constructed in 1934 – over 90 years ago – and funding for building maintenance and upgrades is hard to come by.

### Current building needs and maintenance:

- Learning spaces. There are no dedicated science labs, and pipes are broken in several classrooms. There are holes in the siding that allow wind and rain into several buildings. The roofs leak, and internet access is sporadic.
- Heating and cooling. Currently, classroom heating is either on or off, and requires each teacher to radio the facilities staff to turn it off when it gets too warm. There is no air conditioning in the building, except for three small classrooms in the annex.
- **Lighting.** The lights in the gym are old and if a light is broken, they will have to close the gym due to hazardous waste concerns from the old light fixtures.
- **Bathrooms.** The gym bathrooms are not accessible to elders and those in wheelchairs.



#### Siletz Valley School is united in their work to support their students and community.

Special highlights include <u>their culinary program</u> where students learn how to harvest resources from the coast and combine local Native American traditions with French cooking methods. They also partner with OSU's Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences Program, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Yakona Education programs, Oregon Coast Community College, Young Entrepreneur Program, Oregon Battle of the Books, and VEX Robotics and Drone Competitions to provide their students with well-rounded learning experiences in and out of school.

### Funding this project would allow Siletz Valley School to provide their students and community with another 30-50 years of education.

They are ready to start working on this project and need your support. We urge you to invest \$1.25 million in Siletz Valley School's Revitalization and Safety Improvement Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.