

February 10, 2026

Chair Fredrick, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

For the record my name is Frank Caropelo. I am proud to serve as the superintendent of the Reynolds School District. Reynolds serves approximately 9000 students in east Multnomah County from East Portland and Rockwood to Troutdale.

I am here to speak in support of Senate Bill 1555. Oregon's school funding system is increasingly misaligned with reality, especially for districts like Reynolds that serve a high concentration of students experiencing poverty, disabilities, homelessness, and language barriers.

The current approach to estimating K-12 education costs via the Quality Education Model (QEM) relies on a largely one size fits all approach that does not reflect the true cost of educating students with greater needs. For example, the QEM as currently designed, estimates that every elementary school in the state needs exactly the same set of resources regardless of local context and what the density of high-need student populations is. This does not line up with reality.

After decades of use and external evaluations, the QEM, in my opinion, has lost credibility. When the Legislature is told the QEM is fully funded while districts across the state are cutting essential services, it becomes clear that the model is no longer working.

SB 1555 will move Oregon closer to a research-aligned, credible process for understanding the true cost of meeting the educational achievement goals the Legislature has set.

Thank you,

Frank Caropelo
Superintendent

