

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jonathan Woods. I am a former board member of Dallas School District #2, and I am a resident of Dallas, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1572.

SB 1572 takes important and balanced steps to restore effective learning environments, uphold meaningful academic standards, and ensure that every Oregon student is truly prepared for long-term success.

First, this bill empowers teachers to maintain focused, productive classrooms. When a student repeatedly interferes with instruction, learning suffers not only for the teacher but for every student in the room. Allowing a teacher to immediately remove a persistently disruptive student, while also requiring clear procedures for return and a placement review committee, creates a fair and structured process. This approach respects the needs of the individual student while protecting the right of all students to learn in a safe and orderly environment.

Second, SB 1572 restores the integrity of Oregon's high school diploma. Requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in Essential Learning Skills before earning a diploma or modified diploma ensures that a diploma represents genuine readiness for college, career, or military service. Oregon students deserve credentials that reflect real achievement and prepare them for the demands of adulthood.

Third, grounding language arts standards in the science of reading and writing is a critical step forward. Decades of research show that explicit, evidence-based reading instruction significantly improves literacy outcomes. By directing the State Board of Education to adopt standards aligned with proven research, SB 1572 strengthens early literacy instruction across the state.

Finally, the provision addressing third-grade reading proficiency is especially important. Third grade marks a pivotal transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Advancing students who are not yet proficient can lead to long-term academic struggles. While the bill appropriately includes exceptions, setting a clear expectation for reading proficiency helps ensure that students receive the intervention and support they need before falling further behind.

SB 1572 reflects a commitment to accountability, evidence-based instruction, and respect for both educators and students. It reinforces high expectations while establishing structured safeguards and review processes..

Thank you for your time and your service to Oregon's students.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Woods
Dallas, Oregon