

Submitter: Ashley Schofield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1555

We all know the QEM needs to be updated. We also know that Oregon state lawmakers continue to ignore the real problem, which is that schools and districts around Oregon are seeing devastating cuts right now because of insufficient funding.

Instead of fixing this very real problem, lawmakers in Salem want to spend public money to hire a third-party contractor to develop various "prototype schools": imaginary schools to show what education in Oregon could look like, if the legislature were to ever fund it adequately.

This study - proposed in Senate bill 1555 and to be published in 2028(!) - will be one in a long line of existing studies, all of which have shown that state education funding in Oregon is inadequate to achieve the education goals we have for our children. This includes multiple reports by Oregon's Quality Education Commission and the brand-new AIR study commissioned by the legislature in 2024 that had a \$300,000 price tag already. We don't need another assessment, we need real pathways forward today. Our classrooms need you to give them the support and resources they need to be successful. And year after year we keep short changing our students and classrooms.

This misguided bill, SB 1555, would also eliminate the involvement of parents as a state education goal. It feels like a huge slap to the face for all the dedicated parents and caregivers showing up every day to take care of their school community.

As the legislature struggles to maintain even its current level of funding for schools, there is no reason to believe that this new SB 1555 study will lead to additional funding or support for schools. In fact, as we have seen before, we know that this study will be ignored just like those studies before it.

Our real schools and actual students need help now. No money for imaginary schools, while making cuts to real ones. Please oppose SB1555 as it misses the mark completely.