



February 12, 2026

Chair Hudson, Vice chairs McIntire and Dobson, Members of the House Education committee,
On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association, I am writing to express my support for HB 4112, to restore funding to Oregon's Outdoor School program.

Outdoor school is important to so many of our school districts and students. It is a time-honored tradition for thousands of Oregon students and for some, their first opportunity to experience the wonderful geographic and biodiversity of our state.

Last year's funding cuts to Outdoor School hurt not only the providers, but also put many districts in difficult budgetary positions. The state identifies regional providers and then districts contract with those providers. With the funding from the state reduced, providers must raise costs to districts. The Outdoor School providers must plan for their programs well in advance and many have ongoing contracts with the camps that serve as the venue. When the Legislature reduced funding, providers still had a legal obligation to fulfill those contracts. Additionally, Outdoor School must be a minimum of three days, so the providers have a certain fixed cost to provide a district with even the minimum level of programming.

With providers only able to reduce their costs by so much, that means districts must either pick up the difference, or opt out of Outdoor School for their students. In some areas, districts that had more robust programming have trimmed their Outdoor School back – from four or five days to three for example. For districts that really can't absorb additional cost or that already had a three day program, there are limited options.

Restoring the funding will ensure that students all over Oregon can participate in this vital program.

Thank you,
Adrienne Anderson
Government Relations Counsel