



Testimony for HB 4011

My name is Dr. Diana Serrano representing 44,000 educators of the Oregon Education Association in strong support of HB 4011 with the -1 amendment.

Our members know that a class of 35 is not just 'ten more students' than a class of 25; it is a fundamentally different, often impossible, instructional environment. When a classroom exceeds a manageable size, the impact cascades: teachers have fewer minutes for feedback, Education Support Professionals are spread dangerously thin, and our most vulnerable students become invisible.

While state reports may suggest our class sizes are 'stable' because the median is 23, we must remember that a median is merely a mathematical tool designed to smooth over extremes. In our schools, those 'extremes' are exactly where the crisis lives. A district's data can look perfectly fine on paper even while hundreds of its students are packed into oversized rooms.

To understand the reality behind ODE's class size report, OEA analyzed ODE's 2024-2025 data for traditional, district-run schools. We used the Oregon Department of Education's official Institution Database as a crosswalk to verify school classifications. Our analysis focused on the K-5 grades, and core academic subjects at the high school level, including English, Math, Science, Social Studies.

Our findings reveal that overcrowding is not an outlier; it is a statewide reality. We found that 80.6% of Oregon districts have at least one classroom with 26 or more students. We found that 80.6% of Oregon districts have at least one classroom with 26 or more students. This burden compounds as students age by 5th grade, 37.9% of classrooms exceed 26 students. By high school, this strain hits the very subjects that form the foundation of student success, with 35.8% of Math and 44.6% of Science classes having 26 or more students.

These numbers represent a departure from what the science tells us works. From the landmark Tennessee Project STAR study, which showed smaller classes close achievement gaps, to a 2024 Brown University analysis identifying class size as a primary factor in teacher satisfaction and retention. This is especially critical for our students with special educational needs; a 2023 Campbell Systematic Review underscores that for

these students, smaller classes are the primary vehicle for the individualized care they require to thrive.

We aren't asking for a one-size-fits-all mandate. We are asking for the right to bargain local solutions for local overcrowding. Please support HB 4011 with the -1 amendment. Thank you.