

Testimony for the State Board of Education, October 24, 2014, re:

- **First Reading, Required Instructional Time OAR 581-022-1620, Definition of Instructional Time OAR 8-1022-0102(30) and Credit Options OAR 581-022-1131**
- **Policy Proposal to amend OARS, ADM and Full Time Equivalency (“Tenths Method”)**

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The Oregon PTA greatly appreciates being included in the Instructional Hours Stakeholder Group. Oregon Department of Education staff Cindy Hunt, Emily Nazarov, and others have provided quality information and encouraged robust discussion among the stakeholders in this important issue.

Regarding the instructional hours proposal, research shows that parent engagement is essential to student achievement. Oregon PTA believes that parent teacher conferences should be left in the definition of instructional hours, to preserve the crucial parent/educator partnership.

We also hope that the parent perspective of quality education, not merely hours, continues to be addressed as a policy matter. That is, we believe the discussion should consider what is taught, preserving professional development and collaboration as a priority, and many other inputs to the quality of education.

Regarding the Tenths Method proposal,

- Staff analysis indicates fiscal impact is unknown. We believe the fiscal impact should be conducted before revisions to OAR are considered. For example, there will likely be impacts related to special education students, and the proposal could have a disproportionate, destabilizing impact on certain school districts’ funding. Unfortunately, those impacts will likely be on districts and students that are already disadvantaged.

- The Legislature’s State School Fund Task Force’s report recommends further research. Changing the formula by OAR could circumvent that discussion during the 2015 session, and beyond.

Thank you for very much your consideration and your commitment to student achievement for all Oregon students.