



CONFEDERATION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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To: Oregon State Board of Education

From: Chuck Bennett, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify on proposed rules implementing HB 3499.

As you may know, COSA played an active role in the 15 months of meetings and legislative discussions around this important piece of legislation. This was a priority for COSA, and our organization views its passage as a major advancement in the effort to improve outcomes for students in language learner programs.

Not only does the bill fund the adoption of the ODE ELL plan, which is long overdue, but it takes substantial policy strides toward district-by-district improvement in ELL practice. We appreciate that the legislation recognizes the tremendous work underway in our 197 districts, and that it also underscores the need to assist some districts in achieving language proficiency goals.

At the heart of the program is a \$10 million fund aimed at assisting districts in need of resources to meet student proficiency goals. The aim of the rules is to help ODE identify those districts and then provide the kind of best practices support needed in the individual districts. The system is a positive one aimed at meeting the needs of students and their educators and should avoid any view that this represents a kind of “penalty box” system. Our strong belief is that with this kind of approach, we will improve students’ educational opportunities and assist districts where resources are desperately needed to improve goals common to students, educators, parents and the communities involved.

Now that we have draft rules and proposed changes, we strongly urge the board to take its time and allow educators, students and parents the opportunity to weigh in on this program before the final rules are adopted. With that in mind we would suggest this hearing today be kept open for comment at least until the next board meeting.

Thank you very much for your service on the board and for your consideration of our request.