

You recently held a hearing on September 17, 2025 regarding a proposed rulemaking, and I would like to include this statement that addresses a broader topic of the PRA's jurisdiction that I think is important for

Currently, none of the 197 Oregon public school districts that serve over 545,000 students are under the jurisdiction of the Public Records Advocate's (PRA) jurisdiction. That needs to change.

School districts are "public bodies" under ORS Chapter 192, yet disputes over records requests go to county district attorneys, leading to inconsistent enforcement and delays. There are 36 counties in Oregon, and requesters appeal to 36 different county district attorneys who may or may not be the time to handle the requests. They are specialists in prosecuting not addressing public records.

The PRA, effective since 2017 for state agencies, offers standardized processes and a depth of understanding that the 36 county district attorneys do not have.

I strongly advocate that steps are taken to include Oregon's public school districts under the PRS's jurisdiction. As a taxpayer and a parent, I see this as crucial for maintaining transparency and accountability in our education system.

I'd like to share a personal example of a public records request I submitted to the Gladstone School District in Fall 2022. I suspected my 5 year old was abused at his school. He had bruises under both arm pits, on his forearm, and collar bone.

I requested videos, and the school district acknowledged they had the requested videos. At minimum, it was going to be \$750. I asked for the excessive fees to be waived. They denied that request. I asked if there was an appeal process, and the reply was,

"There is no appeal process for record requests."

I found out later that there was an appeal process, but it was too late as they had already deleted the videos. Those videos never made it to the Gladstone Police Department nor OTIS as part of the child abuse investigation. The district denied they had videos.

Please prioritize legislation for inclusion of Oregon Public Schools under the jurisdiction of PRA.

Most Sincerely,

Glenda Scherer  
Gladstone, Oregon