



From the Offices of Representatives Finger McDonald, Fragala, Ruiz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2026

Press Contact:

Rep. Finger McDonald, Rep.SarahFingerMcDonald@oregonlegislature.gov

Rep. Fragala, Rep.LisaFragala@oregonlegislature.gov

Rep. Ruiz, Rep.RickiRuiz@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon House Democrats Move to Safeguard Schools Amid Rising Immigration Enforcement Fears

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon House today passed [HB 4079](#), a critical measure to ensure Oregon’s schools remain safe, stable places to learn by establishing clear protocols when federal immigration authorities enter school grounds.

At a time when aggressive federal immigration enforcement has created fear and uncertainty for students and families nation-wide - including one school where [50% of students are too afraid of ICE to show up](#) - the bill requires every Oregon school district and public higher education institution to adopt clear, transparent policies for responding to immigration enforcement activity on campus.

“I would love for every student’s biggest worry as they head out the door in the morning to be about their chemistry exam, after school try out, or class presentation, but for many students, academic worries are taking a back seat to the fear caused by immigration enforcement,” said **Rep. Sarah Finger McDonald** (D - Corvallis). “We can lift some of that fear by providing good information so our students can show up at school ready to learn.”

The legislation requires school districts and public colleges and universities to designate trained staff to respond if federal immigration authorities arrive on campus, verify credentials and warrants, and consult legal counsel when appropriate. Schools must also promptly notify families and the school community when immigration authorities are present, while protecting student privacy and complying with state and federal law.

“Oregon immigrant families and communities are increasingly being threatened by federal immigration enforcement activities, including increased enforcement activities in and around school grounds.” said **Rep. Lisa Fragala** (D - Eugene). “Our schools should be trusted places, never a place where students and families fear to go.”

HB 4079 further requires annual staff training and clear written guidance for school employees on how to respond to immigration enforcement actions, including the distinction between judicial warrants and administrative orders and which areas of campus are public or private.

“How can students learn if they are worried about their safety or their family’s safety?” said **Rep. Ricki Ruiz** (D - Gresham). “This bill gives schools the tools they need to respond appropriately and keep the focus where it belongs: on their education, their friendships and their development.”

HB 4079 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

#