

SUSAN McLAIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 29



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 28, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on Senate Bill 302 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I reluctantly voted "yes" on SB 302 A, because there is potential for the audit to provide helpful information to inform our decision-making on how to improve educational outcomes in Oregon. However, the audit requirement may burden an already overstretched agency and our school districts without providing beneficial feedback. Education policy leaders in the Legislature have committed to simplifying the feedback system for schools and school districts, reducing redundancy and reports, and considering when information is most useful and if the format is appropriate. Therefore, I will closely monitor the implementation of this bill and have regular discussions with the Department of Education to ensure that the audit it requires does not duplicate or interfere with the accountability measures the Legislature is considering this year, specifically SB 141 and HB 2009.

Our metric systems are undergoing change, making the timing of the audit less than ideal. SB 141 will add two new metrics to the Student Success Act measures that research shows are strong predictors of student success, as well as a metric of a district's choosing:

- **K-2 Regular Attendance:** percentage of K-2 students absent for less than 10% of school days – an indicator of future attendance in middle and high school
- **8th Grade Math Proficiency:** percentage of 8th graders proficient in math – the strongest predictor of high school math placement, high school graduation, and 5-year completion
- **One Locally Selected Metric:** ODE will develop a consistent list of important metrics that school districts could choose from

Additionally, the Oregon Department of Education has been testing Family Conversation pilots in lieu of assessment testing in kindergarten, and this work must also be considered when conducting an assessment audit.

I look forward to conversations with the Department of Education and my colleagues about how to ensure accountability in our education system and ultimately improve student success.

Sincerely,

Susan McLain
Representative Susan McLain

