Today’s Goal: Understanding the Role of the Oregon Legislature and How to Advocate for Your Schools
Agenda

• Oregon Legislature 101
• Becoming A Strong Advocate for Your Schools
• Getting Involved with OSBA
• Questions, Answers & Discussion
Legislative 101

• 60 House Members and 30 Senate Members
• Enacting New Laws or Revising or Repealing Current Laws
• Forum for Public Debate on Pressing Issues
• Constitutionally Required to Produce a Balanced Budget
Legislative 101

• Annual Sessions

• 160 Days in Odd Numbered Years; 35 Days in Even Numbered Years

• Governor or Majority of Both House and Senate Can Call for a Special Session

• Legislature Relies Heavily on Committee Process
Legislative 101

- OSBA Legislative Policy Committee
- Legislative Advocacy Determined by OSBA Membership
- OSBA Legislative Policies and Priorities
- NSBA Advocacy Institute
Three Easy Steps to Advocacy

- Step 1 – Get Informed and Know Your Story
- Step 2 – Contact Your Legislator and Develop a Relationship
- Step 3 – Share Your Story and ASK for Their Support
Tips for Communicating With Legislators

• Always identify yourself - Make sure they know who you represent
• Be brief and be SPECIFIC
• Your issue is not the center of the universe
• Always bring it back to students
• Use the local angle - Tell them how a proposal or bill will impact schools in their community
**Tips for Communicating With Legislators - continued**

- Bridge and Pivot
- Dealing with Staff
- Elevator Speech
- Persistence – Sometimes it takes time
- Provide follow up information
- Always thank them for their time
OSBA Legislative Services

- Researching an Issue
- Writing Testimony
- Op-Ed or Guest Opinion
- Setting up meetings with legislators
- Drafting legislation
- Lobby Day
- Federal Issues
- Legislative Updates
- Help with Agencies
Why School Board Advocacy Is Critical

- K-12 in a state of ongoing transformation
- Funding is always a challenge, even in good economic times
- State officials need school board perspective