



## 2019 Issue Summaries

### Investing in Quality Public Education

We are working to build the highest quality public education system for every Oregonian from cradle to career, which will require reforming our revenue system so we can finally make stable, game-changing investments in our schools. We aim to address the long-term structural obstacles in our education system by investing in early childhood programs, reducing class sizes, improving graduation rates, making community colleges and universities more affordable, and supporting the expansion of high school equivalency programs, modern career-technical education, and vocational opportunities.

#### **Passed into Law**

##### Student Success Act

Oregon's K-12 schools have been chronically underfunded for 30 years, leaving Oregon students and businesses feeling the impact. Large class sizes, low graduation rates, gaps in needed services, and too little instructional time reflect years of insufficient and unstable financial support. In 2018, the Joint Committee on Student Success traveled almost 3,000 miles to 77 schools across the state, meeting with students, educators, parents, business leaders and other stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities in Oregon's public school system.

The Student Success Act (HB 3427) is the product of this bipartisan year-long process to build a model public education system in Oregon through a dedicated, sustainable investment that ties funding to outcomes, requires ongoing accountability and closes the opportunity gaps for historically underserved students. The SSA will invest \$1 billion each year in order to:

- Create unprecedented investments in early childhood education by expanding access to high quality preschool, providing professional development opportunities for early childhood educators, and fully funding early intervention and early childhood special education.
- Make accountable investments for all school districts by providing schools with performance targets, regular auditing of expenditures and performance, and enhanced oversight and support for districts that are struggling to sufficiently improve student outcomes.
- Provide additional services that students need to succeed including: mental and behavioral health support, universal access to meals, increased learning time, smaller class sizes, more career and technical education, and more classes that keep students engaged like art, music, PE and more.
- Build a more equitable education system by making targeted investments to serve students who have been historically underserved and by holding districts accountable for closing opportunity gaps.

##### Safe Classrooms for All

K-12 public school students and staff were at risk due to laws that severely restricted the instances in which a professional educator could intervene to keep students safe from physical harm. SB 963 provides much-needed clarification about circumstances in which protective physical intervention may be used. The bill also expressly prohibits using outmoded and dangerous types of restraint and adds teeth to existing requirements that schools log and report every instance of physical intervention to make sure it is not applied disproportionately.

### Adi's Act | School District Student Suicide Prevention Plans

SB 52 – Adi's Act – is named in honor of Adi Staub, who died by suicide in 2017. The bill directs school districts in Oregon to adopt a policy requiring a comprehensive district plan on student suicide prevention, as the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey found youth suicide has been increasing since 2011. The bill requires that the written plan be made available annually at the district office.

### High Quality Preschool

HB 2025 establishes a scholarship and grant program – the Preschool Promise Program – to ensure that Oregon children have access to highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals.

### Textbook Affordability Plans in Higher Education

HB 2213 requires community colleges and public universities in Oregon to establish a textbook affordability plan to help students with the rising costs of textbooks.

### Foster Child Tuition Waivers

HB 2571 permits current and former foster child under 25 years old to receive tuition and fee waivers at Oregon higher education institutions, if they are enrolled and pursuing an initial undergraduate degree.

### K-12 Sexual Harassment Reporting

HB 3077 clarifies the definition of harassment and certain aspects of the reporting and investigation process in K-12 schools and requires resources and support to individuals who report sexual harassment. The 2018 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey found that 7% of Oregon eighth-graders and 6% of Oregon eleventh-graders reported experiencing unwanted sexual comments or attention in the previous month.

### K-12 Holocaust Education

SB 664 requires school districts in Oregon to provide instruction about the Holocaust and designates specific learning outcomes for this instruction. It requires the instruction to begin during the 2020-21 school year. Oregon is now the 11<sup>th</sup> state in the country to require Holocaust education.

### Tuition Equity for Graduate Students

SB 859 permits students who qualify for tuition equity to pay in-state tuition and fees for graduate programs at Oregon public universities, expanding upon a 2013 bill establishing tuition equity for undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents if they meet certain criteria.

### STEM and CTE Teacher Recruitment and Retainment in Eastern Border Region

HB 2457 directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, Oregon Department of Education and Office of Child Care to make specified evaluations to increase the number of educators in Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Region who are available to teach courses in secondary math and science and in career and technical education programs. The goal is to make educator positions in the region more competitive with positions in Idaho.

### Community Colleges Four-Year Degrees

SB 3 permits a community college to offer an applied baccalaureate degree program upon approval from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, expanding degree access for students in Oregon's 17 community colleges. The bill requires community colleges to submit program information and documentation to HECC to qualify for approval, and to establish program criteria.

## **Funded**

### **Student Success Act**

HB 3427 reforms corporate taxes to provide \$1 billion per year to make unprecedented investments in early childhood education, make accountable investments for all school districts, build a more equitable education system, and provide additional services that students need to succeed. This investment package was the product of a year-long bipartisan process to build a model public education system in Oregon through a dedicated, sustainable investment that ties funding to outcomes.

### **State School Fund Budget**

HB 5016 allocates \$9.0 billion for the State School Fund, an overall 9.7% increase over the 2017-19 State School Fund. This includes \$7.71 billion in General Fund resources, \$535.7 million in Lottery Funds, \$103.3 million in marijuana taxes, and a \$643 million transfer from the new Fund for Student Success established in HB 3427.

### **Higher Education Coordinating Commission Budget**

HB 5024 appropriates \$2.2 billion General Fund, \$139.6 million Lottery Funds, and \$2.8 billion total funds for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The budget includes increases over current service level to the following funds:

- Public University Support Fund – almost \$60 million General Fund increase (7.7% increase)
- Community College Support Fund - \$50 million General Fund increase (8.4% increase)
- Oregon Opportunity Grant – \$12.5 million total funds increase (8.2% increase)

### **Support for the Oregon FFA**

HB 2444 directs the Department of Education to coordinate with the Oregon Future Farmers of America Association to increase student achievement and improve college preparation and career readiness. The bill appropriates \$1.43 million to the Oregon FFA Association and a grant program will extend funding for agriculture science and technology programs during the summer.

### **Oregon Promise Expansion to Incarcerated Youth**

HB 2910 allows an individual to qualify for an Oregon Promise grant award if they have completed certain educational requirements while serving in a correctional facility, if the individual enrolls in courses available for the award within six months after their period of incarceration or detention has ended. The bill, which appropriates \$200,000 for additional grants, will cover approximately 146 people.

### **Farm to School Program Expansion**

HB 2759 expands the types of entities that may receive a noncompetitive Farm-to-School grant to purchase food produced or processed in Oregon. This will now include grant access for Child and Adult Care Food Program center-based providers and Summer Food Service Program meal providers.

### **School Based Health Centers**

HB 3165 provides planning grants for 10 school districts or education service districts to evaluate their community's needs for a school-based health center, which are required to provide physical, mental, and preventive services to all students regardless of the student's ability to pay.