



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Democrats Act to Support Schools Impacted by Wildfires

House Bill 4026 A will ensure students and teachers in wildfire-affected areas have the resources they need as the community rebuilds

SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon House of Representatives has passed [House Bill 4026 A](#), which will provide support to school districts affected by the 2020 wildfires. The bill provides stable funding for impacted districts through the 2024-25 school year.

“As we rebuild and recover, our community needs strong schools more than ever,” said [Rep. Pam Marsh](#) (D-Southern Jackson County). “This bill will stabilize wildfire-impacted schools and ensure that teachers and students have the resources they need to be successful.”

In the aftermath of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires, school districts in wildfire-affected areas have reported significant losses in enrollment, leading to millions of dollars of lost funding for teachers, social and emotional supports, and targeted programs like career and technical education and dropout prevention. Students navigating poverty and students in rural communities have been disproportionately affected by the lost funding. Oregon’s school funding formula is based on student attendance numbers.

HB 4026 A provides grant funding to wildfire-impacted school districts for four school years through 2024-25. The grants will be calculated based on the districts’ lost funding compared to the number of students enrolled during the 2019-20 school year.

The school districts eligible for assistance are Phoenix-Talent School District in Jackson County, Santiam County School District in Linn County, Lincoln County School District, and McKenzie School District in Lane County. These four school districts have collectively reported the loss of over 500 students due to wildfire-related displacement.

HB 4026 A passed 60-0 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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