

PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Democrats Pass Record State School Fund

Senate Bill 5514 A sets the budget for the State School Fund at a record \$9.3 billion

SALEM, OR—The Oregon House voted today to pass <u>Senate Bill 5514 A</u>, which sets the budget for the State School at a record \$9.3 billion. That is a 3.3% increase in the State School Fund budget from the 2019-2021 biennium. Those funds will be combined with almost \$4.6 billion in property taxes and other local revenues for distribution through the school revenue formula.

"We are creating record investments in our public school system this session," said Rep. Susan McLain (D-Hillsboro), who carried the bill on the House floor. "We know so many Oregonians are struggling right now, which is why each and every one of us is working hard to ensure we can meet everyone's needs, especially those of our BIPOC and low-income communities, who have disproportionately been impacted by the multiple crises this past year."

In addition to the funds contained in this bill, schools continue to receive funding from the landmark Student Success Act, which directs corporate tax revenue to classrooms and school programs with an emphasis on meeting the needs of Oregon's Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students. The Student Success Act continues to provide targeted funds to expand early education access, add mental health resources for students, fund culturally specific programming, and restore art, music, PE, and career training.

"When I pushed for the landmark Student Success Act in 2019, I did so because I knew we couldn't continue with the status quo," said <u>House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner</u> (D-NE Portland). "At this moment we are facing one of the hardest economic recessions in our lifetimes, a pandemic, and many families and small businesses are still recovering from the wildfires. A \$9.3 billion State School Fund budget will help Oregon's nearly 200 school districts move forward with plans to support students, families, and teachers."

"The budget that we passed today stabilizes our education fund at a time when Oregon students need that stability and support, and it does so without requiring cuts to our other essential services," said Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn), who serves as Chair of the House Committee on Education. "As a legislative body, we have an opportunity to invest in a public education system that works for all—especially our Black children, Indigenous children, children of color, low-income children, children in rural communities, children experiencing disability, and immigrant and refugee children. This budget moves us in that direction, and we all know there will be more work going forward to help us achieve equitable outcomes for Oregon's BIPOC children."