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Student Success Act Budget: Revenue will go to education

HB 5047: Budget package allocates funding to areas described in HB 3427

SALEM – Senate Democrats made good on their promise to allocate Student Success Act funding to the classroom and programs that will help the state’s students succeed.

Less than two weeks after passing the landmark legislation that will provide \$2 billion per biennium in dedicated education funding when fully implemented, the Senate sent [House Bill 5047](#) – the budget package allocating the new revenue to specific programs – to Gov. Kate Brown for her signature. The bill passed on a 22-6 vote today.

“When we went around the state talking to people in different communities, we really listened to what they had to say,” said Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), who led the Student Success Act development process and carried House Bill 5047 on the Senate floor. “One of the key messages from those folks was that these resources need to get into the classroom and programs that help students. So that’s where we’re putting them. It’s a targeted investment in our students. We have been very careful about crafting this legislation to make sure this is the case, and I’ve been very clear about this since Day 1.”

House Bill 5047 starts with \$1.6 billion in anticipated funding to be derived from a 0.57-percent tax on businesses grossing more than \$1 million a year. \$423 million of that will be deducted to account for the tax break Oregonians will get on their individual state income taxes and other changes in House Bill 3427. The rest of the money is put into education, with \$200 million going to the State School Fund and the remainder being put into other, more specific, educational programs to help students succeed.

Funding is divided into several categories, including resources to the Oregon Department of Education to start new programs, including various early learning programs, new student investment, nutritional programs, career technical education programs and more. New initiatives include Student Success Teams established to help districts that lag in achievement benchmarks. Student investment grants will go to school districts to meet mental health, behavioral and other needs as well as increasing student achievement. These grants can be used to increase instructional time, reduce class sizes, broaden educational opportunities and other activities that enhance student achievement. An accountability team will develop a model for academic return on investment to make sure programs are delivering positive results.

A statewide school safety and prevention system will focus on bullying prevention, student wellness, suicide prevention and a statewide student tip line. A Safe and Effective Schools Team will assist schools in addressing behavioral, mental and physical health needs of their students. Statewide education plans also will be put into place for several identified underserved populations to facilitate culturally appropriate best practices from early childhood through post-secondary education.

Summer learning programs for Title 1 schools, re-engagement grants to reconnect 14- through 21-year-olds who have dropped out or are not making the necessary progress toward graduation and early learning capacity improvements will help make sure students who need extra support for a variety of socioeconomic and other reasons get extra support. The programs are geared toward making sure all students are able to succeed and graduate from high school. An Early Warning System will flag students who are falling behind so schools can help them catch up. Other resources will be put into Early Head Start, Preschool Promise and other early learning programs to help all children in the state get a great start on a high-quality education.

“When I carried the Student Success Act to passage in the Senate, I said that this money will go into the classroom,” Roblan said. “The Student Success Act includes in it a detailed description of where the funding will be allocated. This budget follows that mandate by putting money into educational programs with specific activities, goals and sought-after outcomes. Those programs will be audited regularly to make sure they are doing what we need them to do. I have devoted my entire career to educating students and there are few people who take this more seriously than I do. We are talking about the future of every single young person in this state. That’s too precious of a thing to play politics with.”

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