



PRESS RELEASE
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SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Republicans Walk Out on Critical Education Bills

Education funding, school safety, and legislation that would address educator workforce shortages stalled as Senate Republicans' unconstitutional walkout continues

SALEM, Ore. - As the Senate Republican walkout over abortion rights enters day 15, legislative Democrats continue to show up to deliver on the state's most pressing issues, including education.

In addition to [record K-12 school funding](#), Senate Republicans are now holding up critical education policies that would make sure Oregon students and teachers have what they need to succeed in the classroom. **Bills stalled would address educator workforce shortages, protect funding for smaller school districts, increase school safety, and more.**

“Our amazing educators and school faculty show up every day for their students, Senate Republicans need to do the same,” said [Representative Ricki Ruiz \(D-Gresham\)](#), who serves on the **House Education Committee and is a former school board member for the Reynolds School District**. “Oregonians sent us to Salem to deliver solutions for our schools. We have the votes. We just need our colleagues to come back and do their jobs.”

“This unconstitutional walkout is threatening our chance to build a brighter future for our children,” said [Senator Michael Dembrow \(D-Portland\)](#), a former educator and chair of the **Senate Education Committee**. “We have big, urgent problems in our schools – like staffing shortages and literacy challenges – that we need to deal with, but a small minority of legislators are holding our government hostage.”

Despite not showing up to work, Republican Senators continue to receive over \$250 in salary per day.

Bills held up by Senate Republicans are vastly bipartisan and include:

- [Record K-12 Funding](#): Yesterday, Democrats announced a record \$10.2 billion for K-12 schools. When paired with local property tax revenues, the total formula reaches **\$15.3 billion**, a 12.3% increase over current resources, which will ensure Oregon's schools and educators will have the tools they need to prepare Oregon's students for the future.
- [Early Literacy and Success Budget](#): A \$140 million investment to support students with reading and writing skills, which will help lead to higher graduation rates.
- [Senate Bill 283](#): Addresses school workforce shortages.
- [House Bill 3135](#): A bill with House Republican chief sponsors that protects funding for smaller school districts.
- [House Bill 3584](#): Known as the School Emergency Notifications Act, this keeps schools safe and ensures parents and guardians are electronically notified during a school emergency and are kept informed throughout the incident.
- [House Bill 2280](#): Supports students who are victims of sexual harassment.
- [House Bill 2669](#): Supports children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- [House Bill 2905](#): Following a rise in anti-Semitism, this adds Jewish history to be taught in public schools.

In the House, 87% of all legislation passed since May 9 has received three or more Republican votes. In the Senate, 90% of legislation has received bipartisan support.

Senate Republicans reinforced their extreme, anti-abortion agenda by violating the Constitution instead of doing their jobs and debating and voting on [Reproductive Health & Access to Care Bill](#), House Bill 2002, which would enshrine the abortion rights Oregonians had under Roe v. Wade in state law. [Over 72% of Oregonians support abortion](#) – well above the national average.

Contrary to the actions of their Senate counterparts, House Republicans are still doing their constitutional duty to vote on legislation like these education priorities.

The walkout defies the will of Oregon voters who [overwhelmingly voted for Measure 113](#), establishing penalties for legislators who have more than 10 unexcused absences. As of today, 10 Senate Republicans are now ineligible to run for re-election.

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