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Senator Jeff Golden Champions Relief for Schools Impacted by Wildfires

House Bill 4026 will stabilize funding to wildfire-impacted schools, help communities recover

SALEM – Today, the Senate unanimously approved [House Bill 4026](#). This legislation will direct the Oregon Department of Education to award grants to qualified wildfire-impacted school districts to cover funding decreases resulting from the displacement of students due to wildfires. The bill includes \$25 million in one-time funding to stabilize certain school districts impacted by the 2020 wildfires.

“It’s been a pleasure to work with Representative Pam Marsh to bring this essential relief to the Phoenix-Talent School District and others across the state,” said [Senator Jeff Golden](#) (D-Ashland), Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery, who carried House Bill 4026 on the Senate floor. “Since Labor Day 2020, these districts have put shoulder to the wheel without complaint to maintain services under grueling circumstances. This bill provides a temporary lifeline for them to regain equilibrium and provide their kids the quality education they deserve.”

House Bill 4026 will create a grant program to cover lost funding due to decreases in student membership at wildfire-impacted school districts. This grant program will provide funding stabilization for school years 2021-22 through 2024-25. These resources will help limit disruptions at wildfire-impacted school districts until infrastructure and housing in these districts can be restored.

House Bill 4026 now goes to the Governor for her signature.

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