



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

March 6, 2014

CONTACT: Tom Powers (503) 986-1074
tom.powers@state.or.us

Senate approves grants to help students at high-poverty schools

HB 4117B makes targeted investments in 19 schools across Oregon that need assistance

SALEM –Today the Oregon Senate approved a targeted grant program to improve student achievement at some of the highest-need schools in Oregon. House Bill 4117B, which provides additional resources to schools to create summer programs, passed 30-0.

The Summer Learning Grants created by House Bill 4117B will fund programs at up to 19 of Oregon's high-poverty, low-performing schools. The Oregon Department of Education has identified these schools as 'priority' and 'focus' schools.

“With this bill, we're stepping up to help students in schools that really need more support,” said Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), a chief sponsor of the bill. “The additional investment we're providing gives these struggling schools more resources to help students catch up during the summer.”

Senator Edwards represents Senate District 7, which includes one priority school, River Road Elementary, and two focus schools, Spring Creek Elementary, and Laurel Elementary.

HB 4117B appropriates \$500,000 to fund summer programs that will add at least 60 hours of learning time for over 5,000 of Oregon's most vulnerable students. This funding is an extension of targeted investments made in 2013 by the Legislature to Title I 'priority' schools.

“Last year we made funding for public schools our top priority so that we could lower class sizes and restore the school year,” said Senator Chip Shields (D-Portland). “But some schools, including a few in my district, are in dire need of additional direct support. Giving these schools resources to provide summer learning opportunities will help Oregon students who need it the most.”

Senator Shields represents Senate District 11, which contains two priority schools, Rosa Parks Elementary and Woodlawn Elementary, and five focus schools.

The bill now goes to Governor John A. Kitzhaber for his approval.

###

For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit www.orsenatemajority.org