



OREGON SENATE REPUBLICANS

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Democrat Budget Shortchanges Oregon Students

Co-Chairs' Proposed Budget \$30 Million Short of Current Service Level

Salem, Oregon - Today, Senate Republicans called attention to a significant shortfall in the Ways and Means Co-Chairs' proposed budget framework that would shortchange the State School Fund by \$30 million.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Office, the estimated Current Service Level for the State School Fund is \$7.265 billion, which exceeds the Co-Chairs' framework of \$7.235 billion for K-12 education released on January 14th.

"The Co-Chairs' budget means fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and reduced school days," said Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River). "Why would we cut the State School Fund when we are expecting \$1.5 billion in additional revenue from economic growth? We need to re-evaluate our priorities and focus on our children."

Oregon has the fewest number of students graduating from high school in four years, while dedicating less of the state's budget to K-12 education than a decade ago. Senate Republicans have pledged to put school funding first, aggressively supporting a well-funded, stable and robust public school system with targeted investments that accommodate all learning styles.

"The last thing we should do is slash K-12 education funding when our high school graduation rates are dead last in the country," explained Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "We're wasting our time bickering over partisan issues pushed aggressively by Democrats while the Co-Chairs are shortchanging our children. This is unacceptable."

Senate Republicans have proposed an \$8 billion budget for K-12 education, dedicating 90% of the higher revenues expected from recent economic recovery to the State School Fund. You can see the entire [2015 Senate Republican Agenda here](#).

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