



from the office

of

Sen. Alan Olsen

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State Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby, pictured on the Senate Floor with students visiting the Statehouse. Photo credit: Tony Miller.

Olsen introduces "Education First" package
Package gives educators and students much-needed resources and funding

SALEM, Ore.-Today, state Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby, introduced his "Education First" package to address the underfunded education system in Oregon. Olsen has spearheaded an 'education first' push and says ["Oregon's underfunded schools in Oregon are hurting students, parents and educators."](#)

"Both parties must work together to end the era of failure in Oregon. By passing my 'education first' package we can liberate educators and students from the burdens of an underfunded education system," added Olsen. "Oregon's government clearly hasn't prioritized educators and students and that is unacceptable. We must make 'education first' and pave the way for a better future here in Oregon."

The first proposal, [Senate Joint Resolution 020](#), co-sponsored with Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli, of John Day, proposes an amendment to the Constitution that would require the Legislature to appropriate funds for Oregon's K-12 system by 65th day of regular session held in odd-numbered year and would prohibit legislator compensation if the appropriation is not passed.

The full text of SJR 020 can be viewed [here](#).

Another proposal, [Senate Bill 671](#), appropriates \$9,523,300,000 to the State School Fund.

[Senate Bill 672](#) appropriates funds to the Oregon Department of Education to award grants for career and technical education.

[Senate Bill 673](#) appropriates \$760,000,000 to public universities and [Senate Bill 674](#) appropriates \$589,000,000 to community colleges.

[Forty-seven other states rank higher than Oregon](#) when it comes to graduation rates and [we rank 43rd for overall performance](#).

In 2011, only 67 percent of Oregon students graduated from high school within four years, and only 70 percent within five. In Oregon, 69 percent of the class of 2013 graduated with a diploma, compared to 81 percent nationally.

Per [EdWeek](#), in 2015 only 37 percent of fourth grade students were proficient in math, and only 33.9 percent were proficient in reading. This may not come as a surprise if people knew [Oregon students lose almost a year of education when class times and school years are compared to national averages](#).

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