Chronic Underfunding of K-12 Public Education in Oregon and What You Can Do

Quality Education Commission
July 2018
Quality Education Commission

Legislative Charge:

• Determine the amount of monies sufficient to ensure that the state system of K-12 public education meets the quality goals established by statute.

• Identify best practices based on education research, data, professional judgment, and public values, along with the cost of implementing those best practices in K-12 schools.

• Issue a report to the Governor and Legislative Assembly in even-numbered years.
# State School Fund Shortfall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biennium</th>
<th>QEM Full Funding</th>
<th>Legislative Appropriation</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Percent Gap*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-01</td>
<td>$5,654.2</td>
<td>$4,562.0</td>
<td>$1,092.2</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-03</td>
<td>$6,215.6</td>
<td>$4,573.9</td>
<td>$1,641.7</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-05</td>
<td>$6,659.2</td>
<td>$4,907.6</td>
<td>$1,751.6</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-07</td>
<td>$7,096.7</td>
<td>$5,305.2</td>
<td>$1,791.5</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-09</td>
<td>$7,766.2</td>
<td>$6,131.0</td>
<td>$1,635.2</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-11</td>
<td>$7,872.8</td>
<td>$5,756.9</td>
<td>$2,115.9</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-13</td>
<td>$8,004.9</td>
<td>$5,799.0</td>
<td>$2,205.9</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-15</td>
<td>$8,775.0</td>
<td>$6,650.4</td>
<td>$2,124.6</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-17</td>
<td>$9,158.4</td>
<td>$7,376.3</td>
<td>$1,782.1</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-19</td>
<td>$9,971.0</td>
<td>$8,200.0</td>
<td>$1,771.0</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Service Level (CSL) Approach

• Based on past actual funding, not what is needed to adequately fund education

• Result: Oregon’s rank in K-12 spending per student fell from 15th nationally in 1990-91 to 29th in 2014-15

• More details: QEC Short Paper
Steady Improvements, But Long Way to Go

• Oregon schools have improved graduation rates by 9 percentage points in the past 8 years.

• But, 1 in 4 Oregon students still do not graduate on time.

• More investment is needed to ensure students can succeed in high school and be prepared for college and career.
Student-Focused Services

- Culturally responsive practices
- Diversification of the workforce
- Increased access to early learning
- Increased wrap-around services and supports
- Investments in educator professional development
- Additional instructional time, adequate staffing, and collaboration time for teachers
- Career-connected learning, like CTE
System Focus

• Student-centered initiatives should become a regular part of how schools do business so that they are sustainable.

• This approach should be used across all sectors of the education enterprise, from Pre-K through higher education.

• Equity and community lens is crucial.
Next Steps

• Release of 2018 Quality Education Model (QEM) Report
• Role of school board members
Thank you!

For links to QEC reports and more information:

• Visit the QEC Webpage

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