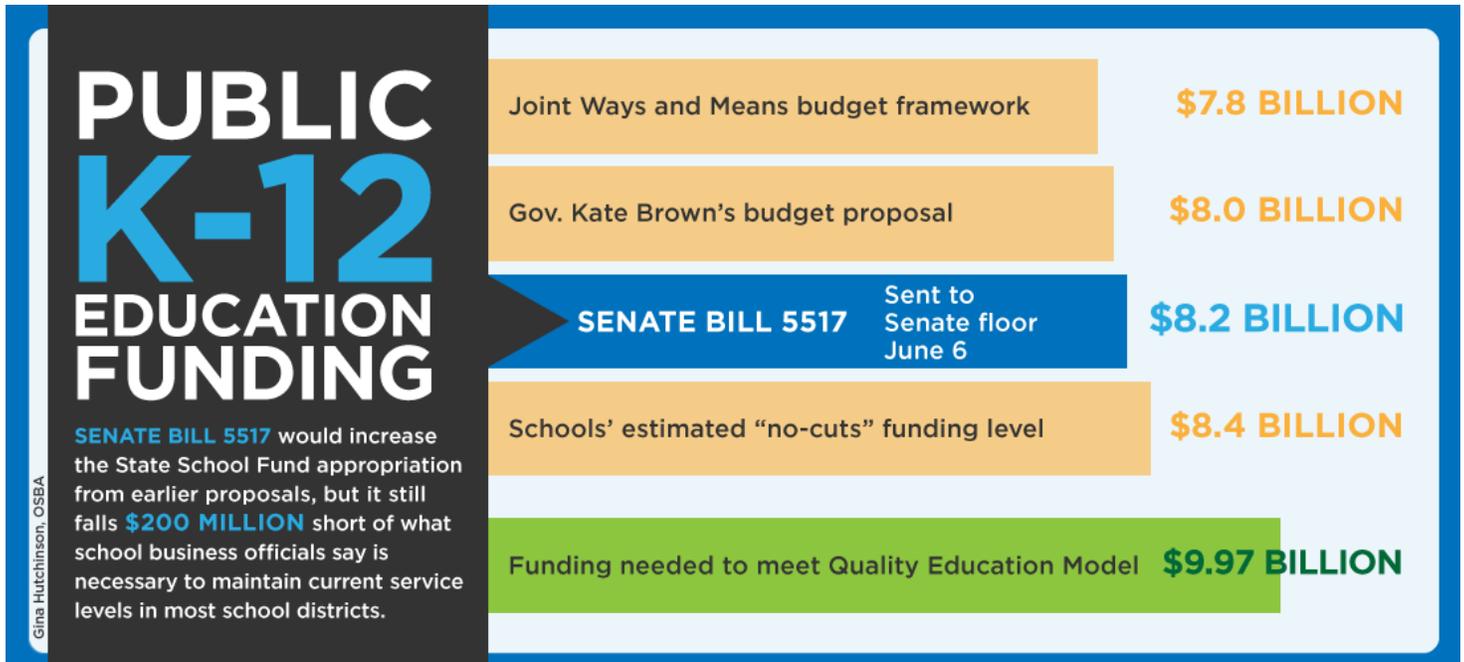


OSBA Legislative Highlights



June 9, 2017



\$8.2 billion State School Fund bill moves quickly despite protests

[Senate Bill 5517](#), the measure representing an \$8.2 billion allocation to the State School Fund, moved forward rapidly this past week. It passed the Senate and could get a vote in the House as early as next week.

On Thursday, June 1, the [Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee was reshuffled](#) to get enough House votes for the bill to move to the full Ways and Means Committee.

On Tuesday, June 6, Ways and Means scheduled a meeting solely to consider the bill. Despite widespread committee agreement that \$8.2 billion wasn't enough for schools, the full committee sent the bill to the Senate floor.

Before that work session, education advocates controversially lined the Capitol hall chanting, "8.2 just won't do." The protesters got the attention of lawmakers on the committee but perhaps did not have the impact they intended.

"I was the first one to walk through the gantlet," said Sen. Fred Girod (R-Stayton), referring to the line of

protesters, "I have always been a huge supporter of education and that stunk." He added, "8.2 will have to do."

House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland) expressed concern with \$8.2 billion in the hearing.

"I wish I could say that passing this budget today puts our kids on the pathway to a more stable and vibrant education ... but instead the budget we are passing today is not even the status quo for some of our districts," she said.

Several on the committee pointed out that \$8.2 billion was more than schools were told to expect earlier in the session. They said the Legislature had done a remarkable job scraping up as much as it did given that the state is facing a \$1.4 billion shortfall for the 2017-19 biennium. Gov. Kate Brown's proposed budget called for \$8 billion for schools, and the Ways and Means budget framework called for \$7.8 billion.

The Ways and Means hearing concluded with a resounding vote in favor of the bill. Of the 23 committee members, there were only four no votes with one member excused, leaving 18 votes in favor of the measure.

On Thursday, June 8, the bill progressed to the Senate floor. The hearing was relatively brief. Senators, including the carrier of the bill Sen. Rod Monroe (D-Portland), endorsed it as a good bill that would give school districts the ability to plan for the upcoming biennium. Many members also referred to the \$8.2 billion allocation as a floor, not a ceiling, and vowed to return. A few senators, including Sen. Tim Knopp (R-Bend), spoke against the bill. Knopp said that he had to respectfully oppose the measure because he had “made a commitment to his school district” to oppose an allocation below \$8.4 billion.

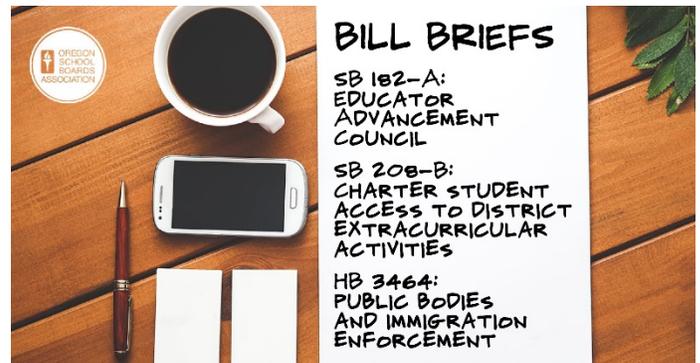
SB 5517 passed with an overwhelming 25-5 vote. It will next move to the House floor. OSBA will monitor the bill.

- Richard Donovan
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Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee on the way to vote on an \$8.2 billion State School Fund bill had to travel a hall lined with education advocates chanting, “8.2 just won’t do.” (Photo by Jake Arnold, OSBA)

Bill Briefs



UPDATE: Educator Advancement Council

[Senate Bill 182-A](#)

What it does: The bill would turn the existing Network for Quality Teaching and Learning into the Educator Advancement Council. Currently, the NQTL operates under an existing State School Fund carve out, with \$39.5 million requested for the 2017-19 budget.

What’s new: The bill received a public hearing in the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee on Monday, June 5. Proponents of the measure, including representatives of the Chief Education Office, presented the plan to repurpose the existing carve out to better serve educators throughout the state by creating two new layers of councils driven by educators: one at the state level and multiple local councils. These councils would be responsible for determining how the money in the carve out would be distributed.

Education stakeholders – including representatives from OSBA, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, and the Oregon Education Association – expressed concern with the measure, specifically in consideration of the current budget climate. If the money in the carve out were to be deposited into the State School Fund, it would mean millions of dollars for Oregon’s largest districts. “This is real money we’re talking about,” said Richard Donovan, OSBA legislative specialist. Other concerns included continued funding for requirements around dyslexia education, which are funded via the NQTL in the current biennium, and a desire to make sure that the bill precluded expending K-12 public education dollars outside the K-12 system.

What’s Next: The committee is waiting on amendments to the bill, which means that drafting of the final bill has not been completed. OSBA has been working with legislators and proponents of the measure to make sure the bill addresses concerns. OSBA remains neutral on the bill and appreciates the continued willingness of proponents of the measure to work collaboratively on the measure.

UPDATE: Charter student access to district extracurricular activities

[Senate Bill 208-B](#)

What it does: Currently, home-schooled students have a right to access extracurricular activities in the local district school. SB 208 would extend this right to charter school students. The bill also contains provisions by which the district school can negotiate a charge-back of up to 5 percent of ADMw to the charter school the student attends each year to cover costs, with the opportunity to charge a further 5 percent back for classes requiring course work, such as choir or band.

What's new: On May 31, the House Education Committee amended and moved the bill to the House floor. The amendments altered the bill to make the charge-back provisions apply to all schools. Most committee members voted in favor of the bill, saying it benefitted students with little cost. Rep. Julie Parrish (R-West Linn) opposed the bill in committee, saying that the charge-back provisions unnecessarily punished charter schools.

What's next: The bill will move to the House floor, where a vote to concur with the new amendments and pass the bill is expected. There has been limited opposition to the base bill and to the broader charge-back provisions in the bill. OSBA supports the base bill and the amended bill and will monitor its progress.

Public bodies and immigration enforcement

[House Bill 3464](#)

What it does: The bill is a “tool” that public bodies, including school districts, could use when a school district is approached by federal immigration authorities asking for information about students or staff members or their relatives. The bill sets out requirements for what information cannot be disclosed related to federal immigration laws. The attorney general would adopt model policies that can be used to assist when dealing with federal immigration enforcement staff who might call or enter the school and ask for information. The bill's tools would be optional for public bodies.

What's new: The bill was heard in the House Rules Committee on Thursday, June 8. “This bill is a further step toward civil rights for all Oregonians,” said Gov. Kate Brown. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum followed the governor, saying, “Our office has had numerous calls from agencies and schools asking for guidance. ... The bill helps with the uncertainty of how to respond to immigration enforcement who may show up at a school or other public agencies asking for information.”

What's next: OSBA was consulted on the crafting of the bill as school districts already have policies on releasing student-related information. The bill received considerable testimony but was not acted on during the hearing and has not been scheduled for further action.

The Week Ahead



[June 10](#)

10 a.m. Budget and Revenue Town Hall with House Speaker Tina Kotek and several Senate and House committee leaders at Centennial High School in Gresham.

[June 12](#)

11 a.m. Senate holds third reading on delaying teaching license requirement ([SB 205-B](#)).

11 a.m. House holds third reading on:

- Waiving diploma requirements for some students ([HB 3267](#)).
- Establishing procedures for behavior assessments ([HB 3318-B](#)).
- Providing districts with college graduation rates of students ([HB 2147-B](#)).
- Preventing “lunch shaming” ([HB 3454-A](#)).
- Clarifying rules for child abuse investigations on school property ([SB 101-C](#)).
- Requiring advanced placement credits ([SB 207-B](#)).
- Expanding public meetings locations ([SB 317-A](#)).
- Allowing charter school students to participate in interscholastic activities ([SB 208-B](#)).

(continued)

June 12

3 p.m. House Education Committee holds informational meeting on:

- Establishing age 3 through grade three reading initiative ([HB 3455](#)).
- Developing curriculum related to Native American experience in Oregon ([SB 13](#)).

June 13

3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds informational meeting on establishing education savings accounts ([SB 437](#)).

Items may be added to legislative committee agendas during the week. The Oregon Legislature keeps an updated page of committee agendas at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/LIZ/Committees/Meeting/List>

- *Jake Arnold, OSBA*

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