

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

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



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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