



Key Messages

Oregon schools continue to face a funding shortfall.

- Every other year, the QEC estimates the level of funding necessary for Oregon school districts, using evidence-based research.
- However, **Oregon has not funded schools at the QEC's recommended level. The difference has ranged from 17 percent to upward of 27 percent**, depending on the biennium.

Using the CSL ratchets down funding.

- Oregon uses the "Current Service Level" to help determine funding needs for the upcoming biennium. The Current Service Level is based on actual funding for K-12 schools in the previous biennium and does not take into account how much funding is needed to adequately fund education.

Oregon is among the bottom of states in growth of per-pupil spending.

- Oregon's rank in K-12 spending per student fell **from 15th nationally in 1990-91 to 29th in 2014-15**, according to the latest state-by-state data available from the U.S. Department of Education.

Despite the funding challenges, schools have steadily improved outcomes for students.

- Oregon schools have improved graduation rates by 9 percentage points in the past 8 years.
- Improved instructional practices and more personalized education for students have been factors in improving graduation rates.

We still have a long way to go to ensure all Oregon students are set up for success.

- Although high school graduation rates are at historic highs, **1 in 4 Oregon students still do not graduate on time.**

Getting students college and career-ready is critical for Oregon's economy to grow.

- Although Oregon's economy has been growing, there still is a significant skills gap between the skills Oregon workers have and the skills that growing businesses need.
- Ensuring students graduate from high school with a plan for the future is the first step toward building tomorrow's workforce.

We know what needs to be done.

The QEC, along with the Chief Education Office, has identified **student-focused services and initiatives** that have been proven to improve student outcomes. These best practices include:

- 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 (including counselors and other critical staff), and collaboration time for teachers
- Career-connected learning, like CTE

Best practices should be implemented systematically.

- 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.

QEC is the premier resource for the state on education funding and practices.

- The QEC has been identifying best practices that support and improve student achievement and estimating the cost of implementing those practices since it was formed in 1999.
- The QEC's Quality Education Model (QEM) is an effective and proven tool in evaluating the costs of new policies and initiatives.
- The QEC looks forward to partnering with the Legislature and local school districts to address the funding shortfall and invest in student-centered practices with an equity and community lens to help Oregon's students and youth achieve success.