



February 4, 2011

## Gov. Kitzhaber's 2011-13 budget proposal

For many weeks Governor Kitzhaber has alluded to breaking from the past and dramatically changing the way Oregon provides public services to its citizens. The release of his proposed budget for the 2011-13 biennium offers a clearer picture of how this would impact K-12 public education in Oregon.

The budget proposes a State School Fund (SSF) amount of \$5.56 billion. The governor wants to front-load the budget and spend 52%, or about \$2.9 billion, in the first year of the biennium (2011-12). In his budget document and press conference, the governor mentioned his desire to find efficiencies by looking at changes to the pupil transportation funding formula, school district consolidation and, possibly, collective bargaining practices at the school district level to help offset decreased funding in the 2012-13 school year. The governor's budget also recommends the current 4.75% of SSF funding that goes to education service districts be sent directly to school districts to allow them to "shop for the regional services that best meet their needs."

The governor also proposed the creation of an "Early Learning Council" to manage many early childhood and school readiness programs that are currently housed across many state agencies. The governor plans to establish an "Oregon Education Investment Board" to help achieve his goal of "a single transparent 0-20 education investment budget." He will also propose a voter referral to change the way state police patrols are funded that would free up \$93 million in the General Fund to enhance the SSF for the 2012-13 school year.

Public schools in Oregon are receiving about \$5.7 billion for the current biennium. The School Revenue Forecast Committee has estimated that K-12 schools need about \$6.7 billion in the 2011-13 biennium to maintain current staffing levels and school programs.

The governor's [proposed budget](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/priorities/budget.shtml) can be accessed at: <http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/priorities/budget.shtml>.

## Mandate relief bills need your support

As part of our OSBA legislative priority of shared accountability, OSBA led a Mandate Relief Project among its partners to work with legislators in getting mandate relief bills introduced.

Two resulting, key bills need your support:

- **House Bill (number to be assigned)**, sponsored by Rep. Betty Komp (D-Woodburn), Ways and Means Education Subcommittee co-chair, requires legislative fiscal impact statements to include the effect on school district expenditures if the measure imposes a new duty or increased level of service on school districts; and

- **Senate Bill 560**, sponsored by Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose), streamlines school districts' continuous improvement plan process. SB 560 provides that, instead of the lengthy, time-consuming biennial report the district is now required to file with the Department of Education, a district may only be required to:

- (a) File any substantial changes, as determined by the district school board, or any additions made to the local district continuous improvement plan; or
- (b) Certify that self-evaluations were conducted as required by this section and that the local district continuous improvement plan did not receive any substantial changes or any additions.

**Please contact your legislators and ask for their support of these bills:**

Telephone: 503-986-1187 or 800-332-2313 (toll-free in Oregon outside the Salem area).

E-mail your legislator by using the "[Write Your Legislator](http://www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr)" feature at [www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr](http://www.leg.state.or.us/writelegsltr). By entering your mailing address, your message will be automatically forwarded to your representative and/or senator. Link to contact information for all [Senate](#) or [House](#) members at [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us).

## Meet your education committees

The Oregon Legislature reconvened on February 1 and committee meetings have begun in earnest. About 2,000 bills have already been introduced for the 2011 Session. OSBA Legislative and Public Affairs staff are closely monitoring three key education committees; we recommend school board members familiarize themselves with these committees.

Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton) serves as the chair of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee. Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany) serves as vice chair. Joining them on the committee are Sen.

Suzanne Bonamici (D-NW Portland and Beaverton), Sen. Chip Shields (D-Portland) and Sen. Larry George (R-Sherwood).

Due to the unprecedented 30-30 split in the Oregon House, committees are co-chaired by a member of each political party. The House Education Committee is co-chaired by Rep. Matt Wingard (R-Wilsonville) and Rep. Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis); co-vice chairs are Rep. Jason Conger (R-Bend) and Rep. Lew Frederick (D-Portland). Other members of the committee are Rep. Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin and West

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## OSBA/COSA Legislative Day



Don't forget to register for our OSBA/COSA Legislative Day February 21. Dr. Nancy Golden, Governor Kitzhaber's Education Advisor, will be one of the keynote speakers during the breakfast. At lunch, Senator Richard Devlin, Ways and Means Committee co-chair, will address the group on the budget picture for Oregon.

Get tips and tools for your advocacy on public education priorities that you can deliver in the Capitol during your visit in Salem. Register at [www.osba.org/legday](http://www.osba.org/legday).

OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION  
1201 Court St. NE, Ste. 400, Salem, OR 97301  
PO Box 1068, Salem, OR 97308  
503-588-2800 | 800-578-OSBA | [www.osba.org](http://www.osba.org)  
[info@osba.org](mailto:info@osba.org) | [facebook.com/osba.org](https://facebook.com/osba.org)

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Linn), Rep. Betty Komp (D-Woodburn), Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) and Rep. John Huffman (R-The Dalles).

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education is co-chaired by Sen. Rod Monroe (D-Portland), Rep. Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio) and Rep. Betty Komp (D-Woodburn). Rep. Bill Garrard (R-Klamath Falls) and Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) serve as co-vice chairs. Joining them on the committee are Sen. Fred Girod (R-Stayton) and Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene and Junction City).

The House Education Committee has begun hearings on bills to make special education students who attend charter schools in neighboring districts residents of the sponsoring district and legislation to ensure students in residential treatment programs get the education services they need. The Senate Education and Workforce Committee has begun reviewing legislation to expand college credit opportunities for high school students. The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education convenes for the first time on February 7 and will likely take up the budget for the Oregon Department of Education as their first order of business.

Track committee agendas [online](http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/agenda/webagendas.htm): [www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/agenda/webagendas.htm](http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/agenda/webagendas.htm).

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Kevin McCann, executive director  
Tricia Yates, associate executive director of legislative and public affairs, editor  
Morgan Allen and Lori Sattenspiel, legislative and public affairs specialists  
Jenny Fedler, legislative and public affairs assistant  
Judy Bennett & Diane Efseaff, design & production  
Dan Peterson, printing manager



## NSBA's FRN Conference begins Sunday

The National School Boards Association's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal Relations Network Conference convenes February 6-8 in our nation's Capitol. In addition to an impressive list of education workshops and speakers, NSBA has identified four key priority issues that will be addressed at the FRN conference this year. These include:

- Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act;
- Adequate funding for education mandates, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Act and Title I programs;
- Promotion of local control and governance to increase student achievement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and
- Forward-looking initiatives in pre-K education, teacher effectiveness and education innovation.

Six OSBA board members will be making the journey to Washington, D.C., to advocate on behalf of Oregon's K-12 schools. OSBA President **David Beeson** will lead the delegation, joined by OSBA President-elect **Kris Howatt**, OSBA Past President **Beth Gerot**, and OSBA board members **Laurie Adams**, **Dave Krumbein** and **Patti McLeod**.

In addition to attending the FRN conference, board members will be meeting with Oregon's Congressional delegation to share stories about the challenges fac-

ing school boards, the state of K-12 funding in Oregon, and the importance of the continuation of county timber payments for schools. On Tuesday, February 8, OSBA board members will host a breakfast with Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley at the Capitol Visitors Center. That afternoon, they will meet individually with Oregon's Congressional representatives and their staffs.

For [additional information](http://www.nsba.org/additionalinformation) on the FRN conference, go to <http://www.nsba.org/additionalinformation>.

## Public contracting

This week the first public contracting bill, **House Bill 2062**, was heard in the House Education and General Government Committee. This bill is a product of the Department of Administrative Services implementation committee and clarifies procedures to implement 2009 HB 2867, which changed some important provisions for public contracts, including the requirement that, prior to entering into a service contract in excess of \$250,000, the contracting agency must conduct a cost benefit analysis and a feasibility study which demonstrates the service cannot be adequately provided with its own personnel and resources.

The committee had several questions about the bill, including the need for additional background information, and requested the Department of Administrative Services provide information pertaining to the additional burden, including time resources, that implementation would place on state and local governments.

OSBA's weekly *Legislative Highlights* is now distributed via email. If you prefer to receive all your OSBA communications by U.S. mail, call 503-588-2800 or 800-578-OSBA.