



May 13, 2011



## Legislative Webinar

Wednesday, May 18, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Register NOW for May 18 OSBA Legislative Webinar

### Rep. Greg Smith joins OSBA legislative update

On Wednesday, May 18, 8:30-9:30 a.m., OSBA's Legislative and Public Affairs team hosts its second webinar to update you on the legislative session. Hear first hand about key issues at the Capitol that will affect schools. Submit your questions during the webinar and get the answers you need.

Joint Ways and Means Committee member, Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) will provide a briefing on the state revenue forecast, 2011-13 state budget for education and potential additional reserve fund investment in K-12

([House Bill 3641](#)). The state revenue forecast was released on May 12 (see article, right). Smith has a track record as a supporter of education investment.

To participate, *sign up now* at the OSBA website, [www.osba.org](http://www.osba.org) – look under events. The webinar is FREE but you must register to participate. Log-in information and a link to test your system will be emailed to you.



Rep. Greg Smith

## Governor's budget summit; 2011-13 revenue forecast up

Governor John Kitzhaber, legislative leaders, and legislative budget writers from both political parties met on Monday, May 9, at the Governor's official residence, Mahonia Hall, to discuss a final spending plan for the 2011-13 budget. While details of the meeting are limited, the Governor and legislative participants did issue a *statement* indicating that restoring funding to human service programs was their first priority if state coffers showed an increase in revenue.

On Thursday, the state economic and revenue forecast showed that funds available for the 2009-11 biennium were down \$40.2 million dollars, but there was good news for the upcoming biennium. Oregon's chief economist Tom Potiowsky reported that general fund and lottery resources for the 2011-13 biennium are projected to be up \$128.8 million dollars. He also noted that job growth is positive and that economic indicators show that Oregon is in a period of economic recovery.

With a June 30 deadline for adjournment, the additional funds are welcome news to legislative leaders attempting to hammer out final budgets for education, human services and public safety. However, the new revenue falls far short of addressing the state's budget shortfall and advocates for a wide range of interests will be vying for these scarce dollars.

State economists presented the forecast to a joint meeting of the House Revenue Committee and Senate Finance and Revenue Committee Thursday morning at the State Capitol. For more information, click on the links below ( or access through news story at [www.osba.org](http://www.osba.org)):

- [Mahonia Hall Summit statement from governor and legislative leadership](#)
- [Oregon Economic and Revenue Forecast, June 2011](#)
- [Governor Kitzhaber statement in response to revenue forecast](#)

For additional information or questions, please contact [Tricia Yates](mailto:tyates@osba.org) ([tyates@osba.org](mailto:tyates@osba.org)) or [Morgan Allen](mailto:mallen@osba.org) ([mallen@osba.org](mailto:mallen@osba.org)).

**ACTION ALERT: Tell legislators how your students would benefit from another \$100 million of state reserves already meant for education!**

## Now is the time to access \$100 million from the Education Stability Fund

Time is running out for the Legislature to access funds from the Education Stability Fund (ESF). This fund was created to help stabilize K-12 funding in times of economic crisis. Legislative budget leaders want to end session leaving money in the fund (currently \$192 million) instead of appropriating it to K-12. They need to hear from YOU about why students need this support NOW!

While it won't stave off all of the cuts, an additional \$100 million dollars from the fund pays for one full week of school statewide. Or, it could save 1,500 jobs for teachers and staff statewide. It can help prevent the elimination of academic and extracurricular activities.

The ESF was created to help stabi-

lize K-12 funding in times of severe economic crisis; and we're there! That \$100 million dollars from the stability fund equates to jobs, days in the classroom, academic programs and activities. It means students have more interaction with teachers because class sizes are smaller and there are more days of school.

**What does \$100 million mean to districts?** Districts would receive approximately \$154 per ADMw. Contact your legislators and tell them what that would do for students in *your district*, and ask their action to provide these funds.

Share your stories with OSBA by contacting [Tricia Yates](mailto:tyates@osba.org) ([tyates@osba.org](mailto:tyates@osba.org)). Link to your legislator: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>

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)

*Return service requested*

## OSBA's Reid testifies at budget hearing

The Ways and Means Committee concluded its series of public hearings on the state budget last Friday night at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, with a video link to Coos Bay.

OSBA board member **Liisa Reid** (Greater Albany Public Schools) testified on behalf of her district and school board members across Oregon. Reid thanked the Committee and Legislature for increasing the K-12 allocation from the Governor's original proposal, but reminded them that school districts across Oregon will still be closing schools, cutting days from the calendar, laying off teachers and staff and eliminating academic programs and extracurricular activities.

"Children have only one shot at being six, twelve or sixteen. There are no 'do-overs'." she said.

The K-12 budget signed by the governor leaves approximately \$192 million dollars in the Education Stability Fund (ESF) during the 2011-13 biennium. Reid reminded the Committee that the ESF was created to help *stabilize K-12 funding in times of severe economic crisis* and urged the Committee to access another \$100 million from the fund. For Albany, the \$100 million would mean \$1.6 million – about 6 days of school. Or, Albany could put back some of these other items that the district is considering cutting:

- \$1.2 million would pay for a new science curriculum. Albany's current textbooks list Pluto as a planet and have no information about the completion of the Human Genome Project or the progression of global climate change.

- About \$800,000 would pay for a year of athletics and activities, which Albany is considering eliminating for the second year of the biennium.

***You still have the opportunity to make your voice heard. Let legislators know the budget's impact on your students.***

## Mandate relief bills heard in House Rules

Two bills from OSBA's Mandate Relief Project received a public hearing before the House Rules Committee on Monday, May 9.

**SB 800** eliminates or revises 28 outdated or redundant state laws affecting school districts and the Oregon Department of Education. **SB 560** reduces the paperwork burden on district continuous improvement plans, requiring districts to only submit significant changes to their plans. Both previously passed the Senate, SB 560 unanimously and SB 800 on a 29-1 vote.

OSBA Associate Executive Director Tricia Yates urged the Committee to pass these measures. "These bills will reduce paperwork and redundant or obsolete laws, and while they won't save significant dollars statewide, any time-savings can be redirected toward activities that better support student achievement," she said.

House Rules Committee member and Education Committee co-chair Matt Wingard (R-Wilsonville) thanked Yates and Chuck Bennett of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) for the work of the Mandate Relief Project, and asked the group to keep working and bring products to the Legislature each year.

OSBA's weekly *Legislative Highlights* is distributed via email. To help your service provider avoid rejecting or sending *Legislative Highlights* to your junk email folder, please follow the procedures described [here](#).

If you prefer to receive all your OSBA communications by U.S. mail, call 503-588-2800 or 800-578-OSBA.

The third product of the Mandate Relief Project, **House Bill 3370**, would have required the Legislative Fiscal Office to prepare fiscal impact statements for a bill if it imposes a new duty or increased level of service on a school district or ESD. The bill died in the House Education Committee due to internal deadlines but may be considered in the interim.

SB 800 and SB 560 await further action by the House Rules Committee.

The Mandate Relief Project, brought together OSBA, COSA, OEA, the Oregon School Employees Association, AFT-Oregon, the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and the Oregon Department of Education.

---

© Oregon School Boards Association

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 Efsaaff, design & production  
Dan Peterson, printing manager