

# OSBA Legislative Highlights



*The Promise*  
OF OREGON

**June 19, 2015**

## Legislature nearly done, but your advocacy needs to continue

As the 78th Oregon Legislative Assembly begins its slow journey towards adjournment, it is always useful to review our successes and items still to accomplish in the waning weeks of the session.

Back in December 2014, then-Governor Kitzhaber proposed a State School Fund (SSF) budget of a little more than \$6.9 billion. That number shocked many school advocates as woefully inadequate, and frankly, a step backwards from the previous session. School districts across the state told the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) that dramatic cuts would need to be made at that level of funding. OSBA and our education coalition members began work on a strategy to drive that number up to a level that would eliminate, or significantly reduce, those dramatic cuts. A short six months later we are very close to securing \$7.4 billion in the SSF. While that may not be an amount that will make all school districts whole for the coming biennium, it is an increase above what everyone agreed was a devastating budget number unveiled in December.

This ability to drive the SSF number to nearly **a half billion dollars** above what was proposed could not have happened without the hard work of school board members, school administrators, school employees, parents, education advocates and students lobbying their members of the Legislature and telling their local stories. All these groups and individuals were able to tell legislators that if they fund the access to high-quality programs and services for students, students will succeed and we can begin our ability to fulfill "The Promise of Oregon." This is the promise of lower class sizes, more program offerings and the ability for every student in Oregon to succeed once they exit our K-12 education system. While we have made progress on this promise to our students, we still have more to do! Your advocacy efforts cannot stop just because the Legislature has adjourned.

Before you know it, next February will be here and the Legislature will once again convene in Salem for the next "short session." Between now and then is the perfect opportunity to connect with your legislators and thank them for their efforts during this session. Remind them of their campaign promises related to public schools and education. Invite them to your schools and show them all the wonderful things you do for the schoolchildren of your

district. Also take that opportunity to discuss with them what else is needed in your school district to meet the needs of every student. Inform them that with access to the highest quality programs and services, students will have success.

This session, education advocates have had both successes and disappointments. Overall, we have had more successes than the few disappointments suffered along the way. Once the session adjourns, which is anticipated in the next two to three weeks, OSBA and COSA will quickly publish our joint short report on the legislation passed this session, and later produce our longer report with more detail. The successes of this session could not have occurred without your hard work and dedication to the students of the state of Oregon. Your advocacy efforts made the difference. Please continue to be strong and passionate advocates for public education throughout this interim.

## Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to be dissolved

The Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and the Chief Education Officer were established during the 2011 Legislative Session as part of former Governor Kitzhaber's package of education reforms. The OEIB was charged with creating a seamless system of public education from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary education. The original legislation established a "sunset" date which would repeal the OEIB and Chief Education Officer position on March 15, 2016.

Knowing that the future of OEIB would be a topic of serious discussion during the 2015 Session, OSBA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) considered the question of whether or not to support the continuation of the OEIB. Our members agreed with the LPC that several conditions had to be met before OSBA would support a removal of OEIB's sunset. But then things changed. The resignation of Governor Kitzhaber meant the OEIB no longer had a clear champion. And it was quite clear that many legislators in both parties were frustrated with the work of the OEIB and the failed tenure of Oregon's first Chief Education Officer, Rudy Crew.

Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) was charged with convening a workgroup to consider the future of the OEIB. A large group of stakeholders met over the course of two months

and came to consensus on a list of recommendations contained in **Senate Bill 215**, including:

- Dissolving the Oregon Education Investment Board;
- Elimination of Achievement Compacts;
- Retaining the Chief Education Officer but changing the name of that office from OEIB to the “Chief Education Office;”
- Adding a new sunset date for the position of Chief Education Officer: June 30, 2019; and
- Changing the role of the Chief Education Officer to focus on coordinating with education stakeholders and public education agencies to “bust barriers” between bureaucracies and convening partners and agencies for planning and collaboration purpose.

Sen. Roblan’s workgroup will continue to meet during the interim period and bring additional recommendations to the 2016 Legislative Session regarding the role of the Chief Education Officer and the desired structure and education outcomes for the current P-20 system.

Senate Bill 215 passed the Senate on a 27-2 vote and now awaits a hearing in the House Rules Committee. It is almost certain the House will take action and send the bill to the governor for approval.

The interim workgroup held its first meeting on June 16; OSBA Board Member **Betty Reynolds** and OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen are attending the meetings. Contact Allen ([mallen@osba.org](mailto:mallen@osba.org)) for more information.

View SB 215:

[www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb 0215&c=50&key=SB 02150&ptadd=: SB 215 Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb 0215&c=50&key=SB 02150&ptadd=: SB 215 Details)

## Discussions continue on Early Learning Initiatives

In 2013, the Legislature passed House Bill 2013, known as the “early learning legislation.” It was intended to streamline and improve early childhood services to prepare children for kindergarten and beyond. The bill charged the Early Learning Council with overseeing the development of “hubs,” and outlined the process for development of Early Learning Hub Demonstration Projects.

Early Learning Hub Demonstration Projects are entities that deliver early learning services through a regional collaboration of partners, which include school districts, counties, cities, education service districts, community colleges, and private and nonprofit providers. Hubs are responsible for working with the state to make sure the early childhood system supports children ready to enter school.

**Senate Bill 213** from this session is the next step in an aligned, coordinated and family-centered system of

early learning service delivery. The bill, heard early this week in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education, removes the “demonstration projects” language, and formalizes the hubs in statute. The bill tasks the Early Learning Council with evaluation of the hubs and creation of metrics to measure desired outcomes, such as school readiness. These products will correlate with continued funding of the individual hubs across Oregon. The Early Learning Council will report its findings related to the evaluations to the Legislature no later than February 2019, and will include any recommendations for legislative changes.

SB 213 is expected to be scheduled for a full Ways and Means committee vote next week.

This session’s second early learning bill is **House Bill 3380**, which outlines the process to begin building a pre-school system that is innovative, research-based and supports children at their most critical age of development. The new system will align with Head Start but also allow for a mix of other providers. HB 3380 sets quality standards; and ensures preschools serve an additional 1,500 Oregon children each year, remaining open to children from families who aren’t eligible for Head Start services but also can’t afford private preschool.

Nancy Anderson, assistant director of student services at the David Douglas School District, testified in support of HB 3380 stating, “At David Douglas we’ve seen the power of early childhood education. Instead of investing scarce resources in programs and interventions that struggle to close the achievement gap after the third grade, we believe the key is preventing the gap in the first place. By providing access to quality preschool and supporting families, we’ve shown we can make a difference and change the trajectory for our students.”

Although the bill had a public hearing in the subcommittee, it has not yet been scheduled for additional action.

Contact OSBA Legislative Specialist Lori Sattenspiel ([lsattenspiel@osba.org](mailto:lsattenspiel@osba.org)) for additional information.

View Senate Bill 213:

[www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb 0213&c=50&key=SB 02130&ptadd=: SB 213 Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=sb 0213&c=50&key=SB 02130&ptadd=: SB 213 Details)

View House Bill 3380:

[www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb 3380&c=50&key=HB 33800&ptadd=: HB 3380 Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=hb 3380&c=50&key=HB 33800&ptadd=: HB 3380 Details)



For more information about OSBA’s 2015 Summer Board Conference and to register:

[www.osba.org/Calendar/Events/Summer\\_board\\_conference-2015.aspx](http://www.osba.org/Calendar/Events/Summer_board_conference-2015.aspx)