

OSBA Legislative Highlights



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January 20, 2017

K-12 education faces cuts in legislative budget framework

This week the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means delivered a preview of the anticipated budget for the upcoming session. That preview, called the “budget framework,” outlined funding plans for the state, including a proposal to spend \$200 million less on K-12 schools than outlined in late November by Gov. Kate Brown.

Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene) presented the framework, which offers \$7.8 billion for K-12 education in the 2017-19 biennium. This level of funding likely means significant cuts for schools because of inflation and drastically higher public pension costs, falling as much as \$600 million short of what is necessary for most school districts in Oregon to continue operations as they are today.

For context, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) calculates the amount of funding required to maintain the current service level of schools statewide. DAS estimates that service level would require an allocation of about \$8.2 billion for the upcoming biennium. The Oregon Association of School Business Officials, using a slightly different set of assumptions, estimates the State School Fund needs at least \$8.4 billion to maintain current service levels, roughly \$600 million more than proposed. And remember, that’s just to stand still. Oregonians want to move forward with smaller classes sizes and more programs and electives, according to a 2016 survey by Oregon Rising.

Jim Green, OSBA’s executive director, said, “We should be spending significantly more than \$8.4 billion so our students can keep pace with the rest of the country. Oregon students deserve better than this.”

Oregon’s per-student investment ranks 39th in the nation, and class sizes are the third largest in the country. To reach the educational goals Oregonians identified last year through the Oregon Rising campaign, the state would have to spend even more: roughly \$8.9 billion.

Sen. Devlin repeatedly pointed out during the press conference Thursday at the Capitol that the working state budget of \$20.3 billion is \$1.8 billion short of being able to continue all services at current levels. Expected revenue is 8 percent less than expected costs. The size of the gap demands cuts, the co-chairs said.

“That’s just simple mathematics,” Devlin said.

The co-chairs said Brown’s proposal, which offered \$8.0 billion for K-12 education, was based on a budget that supposed about \$800 million more in revenue the next biennium.

The co-chairs pointed to the state’s heavy reliance on income taxes as contributing to the budget problems. Measures in the 1990s shifted the bulk of the cost for schools from local property levies to the state general fund.

Devlin and Nathanson both raised the question of whether current service levels are the standard that Oregonians expect of their state.

“This existing resources budget framework provides a glimpse at one path forward – one we believe Oregonians will reject. We hope it can be a starting point for a new series of choices to put us on a sustainable path into the future,” the pair said in a statement.



Sen. Richard Devlin and Rep. Nancy Nathanson deliver a preview of the budget Thursday in the Capitol.

House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland) echoed those sentiments.

“We can’t afford to move backward in our investments in education, health care and critical services for struggling families,” she said in a statement. “We shouldn’t shortchange our economic future by making it harder for students to get a good education. And I don’t believe that any Oregonian wants us to make these painful cuts.”

In the coming months, the Legislature will debate how Oregonians want to spend their tax money and whether there is a need for revenue reform.

Green said OSBA will actively address the revenue reform question this session as its chief legislative priority.

“We recognize that the co-chairs are facing a tough spot,” he said. “But the budget proposals we are seeing signal a terrible cycle of future cuts for our schools.

“What we heard today once again signals the need for revenue reform to pay for public services and cost containment in areas such as the Public Employees Retirement System. Our students need leadership on these two issues from the governor and our legislative leaders.”

Add your voice to call for better education; we’ll help you

The budget situation is bad, and this session OSBA legislative services will need your help advocating for state funding of education that avoids budget cuts and puts students and districts first.

Oregon faces a 2017-19 budget deficit of approximately \$1.8 billion to maintain services at current levels. This deficit offers tremendous challenges for legislators making budget decisions. In education, these challenges will be reflected in the ability to have sufficient resources to make gains in student achievement and graduation rates.

So let your voice be heard in Salem! School board members can fight on behalf of their districts and students during the upcoming session, and the legislative services team wants to assist you in becoming an advocate for your district and your students.

We also want you to sign up to be on the OSBA speakers’ bureau, and let us know issues that you are willing to testify about. Once signed up, the legislative services team will contact you about testifying at the Legislature for specific issues you are interested in. Schedule permitting, we will ask that you come to Salem and talk on behalf of your district and students. This type of advocacy commitment is designed for maximum flexibility, so if your schedule does not permit a trip to Salem when asked, then we will call on you another time.

If you are ready to sign up, then send an email to OSBA Executive Assistant Jane Leonhardt at jleonhardt@osba.org. She will send you a quick survey so the legislative team knows what areas you have an interest in.

If you need additional information before committing to the speakers’ bureau, please contact Lori Sattenspiel, interim director of legislative services, at lsattenspiel@osba.org.

Advocacy is about informing and educating, creating awareness and starting crucial conversations about important education topics. Advocacy is not a six-month program. It is an ongoing, year-round effort.

We are working to have school board members forge alliances with legislators, parents and key community members. As an advocate, you provide support for policies that have a positive impact on districts and

students. You will also be an ally against policies that, while well-intentioned, could be detrimental to districts and students

There will be other advocacy opportunities available for you, including the OSBA & COSA Legislative Day scheduled for March 13 in Salem. Come to Salem for the one-day workshop. Be prepared to get involved with advocacy training while getting tips and talking points for a meeting with your local legislators in the afternoon.

The agenda and registration link will be coming soon.



Oregon Senate

| Member | Party/ District | Room | Phone |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| Baertschiger Jr., Herman | (R-02) | S-403 | 503-986-1702 |
| Beyer, Lee | (D-06) | S-411 | 503-986-1706 |
| Boquist, Brian | (R-12) | S-311 | 503-986-1712 |
| Burdick, Ginny | (D-18) | S-223 | 503-986-1700 |
| Courtney, Peter | (D-11) | S-201 | 503-986-1600 |
| DeBoer, Alan | (R-03) | S-421 | 503-986-1703 |
| Dembrow, Michael | (D-23) | S-407 | 503-986-1723 |
| Devlin, Richard | (D-19) | S-213 | 503-986-1719 |
| Ferrioli, Ted | (R-30) | S-323 | 503-986-1950 |
| Frederick, Lew | (D-22) | S-419 | 503-986-1722 |
| Gelser, Sara | (D-08) | S-405 | 503-986-1708 |
| Girod, Fred | (R-09) | S-401 | 503-986-1709 |
| Hansell, Bill | (R-29) | S-415 | 503-986-1729 |
| Hass, Mark | (D-14) | S-207 | 503-986-1714 |
| Johnson, Betsy | (D-16) | S-209 | 503-986-1716 |
| Knopp, Tim | (R-27) | S-309 | 503-986-1727 |
| Kruse, Jeff | (R-01) | S-315 | 503-986-1701 |
| Linthicum, Dennis | (R-28) | S-305 | 503-986-1728 |
| Manning Jr., James I. | (D-07) | S-205 | 503-986-1707 |
| Monnes Anderson, Laurie | (D-25) | S-211 | 503-986-1725 |
| Monroe, Rod | (D-24) | S-409 | 503-986-1724 |
| Olsen, Alan | (R-20) | S-425 | 503-986-1720 |
| Prozanski, Floyd | (D-04) | S-413 | 503-986-1704 |
| Riley, Chuck | (D-15) | S-303 | 503-986-1715 |
| Roblan, Arnie | (D-05) | S-417 | 503-986-1705 |
| Steiner Hayward, Elizabeth | (D-17) | S-215 | 503-986-1717 |
| Taylor, Kathleen | (D-21) | S-423 | 503-986-1721 |
| Thatcher, Kathleer | (R-13) | S-423 | 503-986-1713 |
| Thomsen, Chuck | (R-26) | S-316 | 503-986-1726 |
| Winters, Jackie | (R-10) | S-301 | 503-986-1710 |

Oregon House

(continued)

| Member | Party/ District | Room | Phone |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| Alonso Leon, Teresa | (D-22) | H-283 | 503-986-1422 |
| Barker, Jeff | (D-28) | H-480 | 503-986-1428 |
| Barnhart, Phil | (D-11) | H-279 | 503-986-1411 |
| Barreto, Greg | (R-58) | H-384 | 503-986-1458 |
| Bentz, Cliff | (R-60) | H-475 | 503-986-1460 |
| Boone, Deborah | (D-32) | H-481 | 503-986-1432 |
| Beuhler, Knute | (R-54) | H-389 | 503-986-1454 |
| Bynum, Janelle | (D-51) | H-284 | 503-986-1451 |
| Clem, Brian | (D-21) | H-478 | 503-986-1421 |
| Doherty, Margaret | (D-35) | H-282 | 503-986-1435 |
| Esquivel, Sal | (R-06) | H-382 | 503-986-1406 |
| Evans, Paul | (D-20) | H-281 | 503-986-1420 |
| Fahey, Julie | (D-14) | H-478 | 503-986-1414 |
| Gilliam, Vic | (R-18) | H-479 | 503-986-1418 |
| Gombereg, David | (D-10) | H-471 | 503-986-1410 |
| Gorsek, Chris | (D-49) | H-486 | 503-986-1449 |
| Greenlick, Mitch | (D-33) | H-493 | 503-986-1433 |
| Hack, Jodi | (R-19) | H-385 | 503-986-1419 |
| Haden, Cedric | (R-07) | H-492 | 503-986-1407 |
| Heard, Dallas | (R-02) | H-386 | 503-986-1402 |
| Helm, Ken | (D-34) | H-490 | 503-986-1434 |
| Hernandez, Diego | (D-47) | H-373 | 503-986-1447 |
| Holvey, Paul | (D-08) | H-277 | 503-986-1408 |
| Huffman, John | (R-59) | H-483 | 503-986-1459 |
| Johnson, Mark | (R-52) | H-489 | 503-986-1452 |
| Kennemer, Bill | (R-39) | H-380 | 503-986-1439 |
| Keny-Guyer, Alissa | (D-46) | H-272 | 503-986-1446 |
| Kotek, Tina | (D-44) | 269 | 503-986-1200 |
| Liningner, Ann | (D-38) | H-485 | 503-986-1438 |
| Lively, John | (D-12) | H-488 | 503-986-1412 |

| Member | Party/ District | Room | Phone |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| Malstrom, Sheri | (D-27) | H-280 | 503-986-1427 |
| Marsh, Pam | (D-05) | H-375 | 503-986-1405 |
| McKeown, Caddy | (D-09) | H-476 | 503-986-1409 |
| McLain, Susan | (D-29) | H-477 | 503-986-1429 |
| McLane, Mike | (R-55) | H-395 | 503-986-1400 |
| Meek, Mark W. | (D-40) | H-285 | 503-986-1440 |
| Nathanson, Nancy | (D-13) | H-276 | 503-986-1413 |
| Nearman, Mike | (R-23) | H-378 | 503-986-1423 |
| Noble, Ron | (R-24) | H-376 | 503-986-1424 |
| Nosse, Rob | (D-42) | H-472 | 503-986-1442 |
| Olson, Andy | (R-15) | H-381 | 503-986-1415 |
| Parrish, Julie | (R-37) | H-371 | 503-986-1437 |
| Piluso, Carla | (D-50) | H-491 | 503-986-1450 |
| Post, Bill | (R-25) | H-387 | 503-986-1425 |
| Power, Karin A. | (D-41) | H-274 | 503-986-1441 |
| Rayfield, Dan | (D-16) | H-286 | 503-986-1416 |
| Reardon, Jeff | (D-48) | H-473 | 503-986-1448 |
| Reschke, E. Werner | (R-56) | H-377 | 503-986-1456 |
| Sanchez, Tawna D. | (D-43) | H-273 | 503-986-1443 |
| Smith, D. Brock | (R-01) | H-379 | 503-986-1401 |
| Smith, Greg | (R-57) | H-482 | 503-986-1457 |
| Smith Warner, Barbara | (D-45) | H-275 | 503-986-1445 |
| Sollman, Janeen | (D-30) | H-487 | 503-986-1430 |
| Sprenger, Sherrie | (R-17) | H-388 | 503-986-1417 |
| Stark, Duane | (R-04) | H-372 | 503-986-1404 |
| Vial, A. Richard | (R-26) | H-484 | 503-986-1426 |
| Whisnant, Gene | (R-53) | H-383 | 503-986-1453 |
| Williamson, Jennifer | (D-36) | H-295 | 503-986-1436 |
| Wilson, Carl | (R-03) | H-390 | 503-986-1403 |
| Witt, Brad | (D-31) | H-374 | 503-986-1431 |