

OSBA Legislative Highlights



the Promise OF OREGON



April 21, 2017

OREGON K-12 SCHOOLS BUDGET SHORTFALL

\$8.4 BILLION



\$7.8 BILLION

-\$600 MILLION SHORTFALL

- ◀ How much K-12 schools need to stay even
- ◀ How much state lawmakers propose spending

Co-chairs present devastating look at \$7.8 billion school funding

Legislators gave a preview on Monday of what is to come for schools if there is no deal on revenue and cost containment this session.

The powerful Joint Committee on Ways and Means, through a document titled “Ways and Means Co-Chairs 2017-19 Target Reduction Lists,” paints a grim picture, setting the proposed allocation to the State School Fund at \$7.8 billion for the 2017-19 biennium. The document acknowledges that this scenario will likely translate to staff cuts and reduced class offerings statewide.

Jim Green, OSBA’s executive director, said the latest figures spell disaster for Oregon students.

“We are going backwards and trying to mortgage the future of our boys and girls,” Green said. “This is not acceptable. Instead of proposing more cuts, we should be talking about how to reform how we pay for government services. It’s still not too late, but we need to change the conversation, right now. Our state’s economy is booming, and our children should be the beneficiaries of that, not the victims.”

The new figure of \$7.8 billion is about \$287 million lower than what lawmakers consider “current service levels,” or what it would take to operate schools without making cuts. But according to local school business

officials, the state’s estimates are too low and the overall shortfall is about \$600 million. The [full document](#) can be found on the Oregon Legislature’s website.

- Richard Donovan
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ACTION ALERT!

Oregon schools and students need your help

We are losing ground and denying our boys and girls the education they deserve. Now – today and over the next few days – Oregon’s students need you to once again raise your voices on their behalf. Next week **please [contact your state legislator](#) to urge a school funding number of \$8.4 billion.** At \$7.8 billion we are \$600 million short of what is needed for districts to continue to offer the same programs and services.

School business managers, administrators, teachers and board members across the state agree that \$7.8 billion will lead once again to layoffs and lost school days. Make your voice heard with [OSBA advocacy resources](#) and the help of [Oregon Rising](#). **We cannot stand by while we rob our children’s future.**

Bill would alter Measure 98 to give schools more flexibility

Weeks of work on legislative changes to Measure 98 came together with a vote Monday by the House Education Committee to amend and move [House Bill 2246-A](#).

A desire by some school officials and educators to give districts more flexibility to use Measure 98 funds led to a work group convened by Speaker of the House Tina Kotek (D-Portland). The work group included lawmakers and education stakeholders, and the changes contained in the bill were crafted with the approval of the Measure 98 campaign, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and OSBA.

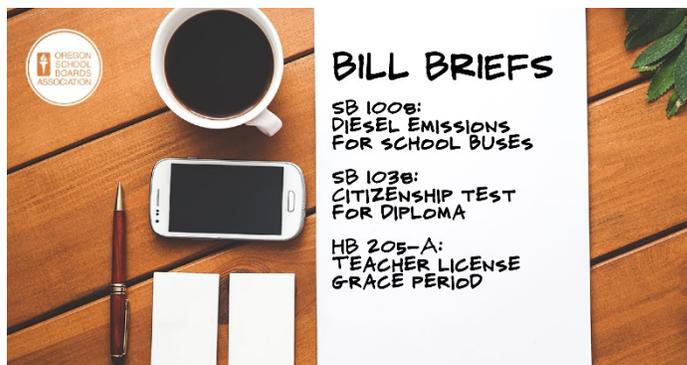
HB 2246-A would make the following changes to existing laws around Measure 98:

- School districts would submit four-year plans, rather than the two-year plans currently required under the law. Funding would still occur each biennium, but the change to a four-year plan would emphasize the need to create programs that will serve a high school student for four years.
- Smaller school districts would get additional flexibility in using Measure 98 funds. Currently, schools applying for Measure 98 funds would have to spend some grant money on each of the three “strands” contained in Measure 98: career and technical education, dropout prevention programs, and college and career readiness programs. HB 2246-A would make the following changes:
 - Districts receiving less than \$200,000 per biennium of Measure 98 funds would only be required to spend funds in one of the three Measure 98 strands.
 - Districts receiving between \$200,000 and \$700,000 per biennium would be required to expend funds in at least two of the three strands, one of which must be career and technical education.
 - Districts receiving more than \$700,000 per biennium of Measure 98 funds must spend funds in all three areas, per current law.
- HB 2246-A would permit school districts to use up to 15 percent of their Measure 98 funds in eighth-grade programs that align to the areas targeted by the measure. This would allow school districts to increase the effectiveness of Measure 98 programs by exposing students before high school.

HB 2246-A was passed out of the House Education Committee with a “do pass” recommendation without opposition. The bill now heads to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

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Bill Briefs



[Diesel emissions for school buses](#) [Senate Bill 1008](#)

What it does: Senate Bill 1008, as written, is a complex and comprehensive plan for a clean diesel program first outlined in SB 824 from 2015. That bill ended up creating a task force to look at how to reduce diesel emissions in Oregon. Those recommendations are contained in the original SB 1008, which includes a plan for using Oregon’s expected Volkswagen settlement money to target reducing diesel emissions.

What’s new: The bill was heard in early March with much opposition from industries that use diesel trucks and machinery. School buses would fall into this category. An amendment was drafted that would narrow the original plan and prioritize school buses with certain criteria for replacement with a portion of the Volkswagen settlement. The Oregon Department of Education estimates approximately 450 school buses statewide would need to be replaced.

What’s next: The bill was amended and moved to the Senate Rules Committee for further discussion. OSBA was involved in the task force and supports the amended bill.

[Citizenship test for diploma](#) [Senate Bill 1038](#)

What it does: The bill would require high school students in Oregon to correctly answer, by a score of 60 percent or greater, a number of questions on the naturalization test required for U.S. citizenship to earn a diploma.

What’s new: The Senate Education Committee heard the bill April 11. The chief sponsor of the measure, Sen. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro), testified in favor of the bill based on his desire to see students have greater access to civics education. The Confederation of Oregon School Administrators and OSBA testified against the measure, citing concerns such as the potential negative impact on students, new mandates, and the general feeling that this could be perceived as a punitive law with no real benefit.

What’s next: Tuesday was the first chamber deadline in the Legislature, meaning that all Senate bills had to be moved out of their Senate policy committees. SB 1038 remains in the Senate Education Committee, and so is effectively dead.

Teacher license grace period

[House Bill 205-A](#)

What it does: Teachers must be licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission before teaching in a classroom. Historically, the commission has taken as long as six months to issue licenses for new teachers. Teachers who have graduated from a teaching program in May or June are often expected to report to work in August, and commonly they are not yet licensed at that time. HB 205-A would give a 90-day grace period for new teachers to begin teaching in the classroom. These teachers would still have to pass the standard background check and have applied for a license with the commission, but they would not be required to have been issued a license before teaching for the first 90 days.

What's new: The bill passed the Senate 27-0. The House Committee on Education heard the bill Wednesday. Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), chair of the Senate Education Committee, testified in favor of the bill, saying that it was a practical solution that would help schools address a recurring staffing problem. "Almost every school district finds itself in this situation," he said. "As a principal I had to deal with it more than a few times, and it is exceedingly frustrating."

What's next: OSBA supports the bill and will continue to monitor it.

The Week Ahead



April 24

- **8:30 a.m.** Senate Finance and Revenue Committee holds work session on changing distribution of marijuana money to schools ([SB 845](#)).
- **3 p.m.** House Education Committee holds informational meeting on closing Oregon's achievement gap.
- House has third reading on regulating dental screenings in schools ([HB 3181](#) and [HB 3353](#)).

April 27

- [PACE Day: Safe and Secure Schools](#) offers conference on liability issues important to education institutions.
- State Board of Education meets and considers final draft of Oregon's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- The "[Oregon Whole Child Summit – Trauma Informed Practice](#)" conference teaches about the importance of trauma informed practices in a school setting.

April 28

- National Education Association board meets.

Items may be added to legislative committee agendas during the week. The Oregon Legislature keeps an updated page of committee agendas at:

olis.leg.state.or.us/LIZ/Committees/Meeting/List

- Jake Arnold

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