



## Legislature Releases Historic Education Investment Proposal, Offers Solutions to Challenges Facing Students

This session, Oregon legislators are making unprecedented progress toward addressing our state's school funding crisis. On April 4, the bi-partisan Joint Committee on Student Success released a plan for \$2 billion in new investments in Oregon classrooms. After 30 years of cutting programs, laying off educators, and disinvesting in our schools, this new funding would help to open doors of opportunity for all Oregon students.

The plan, known as the Student Success Act, would be a game-changer for Oregon students. There are three main components to the proposal:

- \$400 million per two-year budget cycle on early childhood priorities including full funding for Early Childhood Special Education.
- \$600 million per biennium on “statewide investments” such as drop-out prevention and supports for students with disabilities.
- \$1 billion per biennium for a “school improvement” fund, described as “non-competitive grants” toward specific goals, such as smaller class sizes, a longer school year and additional health professionals in schools.

The Joint Committee on Student Success would pay the new investments in schools with a balanced Commercial Activities Tax. Under the plan, large businesses would pay 0.49 percent of their gross receipts over \$1 million. Sales of groceries, gasoline and diesel would be exempt from the tax, as would hospitals and health insurance providers. At the same time, income tax rates would be cut by 0.25 percent for all but the top bracket of income.

Teachers, parents and other education supporters are heartened by the priorities reflected in the act: new funding for lower class sizes, expanded access to early education, and restoring art, music, physical education, and career and technical training programs.