



## SENATE BILL 141 & HOUSE BILL 2009 RENEWING OREGON'S K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

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Governor Tina Kotek has proposed a historic \$11.36 billion State School Fund (SSF) investment for the 2025-27 biennium and is advancing legislation to create more fiscal certainty for school districts in future budget cycles.

This investment is not a blank check. Oregon is facing a slower academic recovery compared to other states following the pandemic, highlighting that our current K-12 accountability system is not sufficiently supporting students, educators and administrators. We must ensure that Oregon schools are innovating and using best practices in the classroom so students can succeed.

### Senate Bill 141 & House Bill 2009

- **Build on Student Success Metrics:** Oregon currently establishes performance goals and outcomes based on five common metrics named in the Student Success Act to measure school districts outcomes: Regular Attendance, 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency, 9th Grade On-Track, 4-Year Graduation, and 5-Year Completion. The Governor proposes adding two new metrics that research shows are strong predictors of student success, as well as a metric of a district's choosing.
  - ◆ K-2 Regular Attendance, an indicator of future attendance in middle and high school.
  - ◆ 8th Grade Math Proficiency, the strongest predictor of high school math placement, high school graduation, and 5-year completion.
- **Get a better handle on what's working for Oregon students and what's not:** The Governor's proposal standardizes the use of "interim assessments," which measure student performance growth. Most districts already use these assessments, which can dramatically improve Oregon's ability to compare data between districts, set goals, and track outcomes to see what's working in our schools and what's not.
- **Give districts that are struggling a helping hand to innovate and bring best practices to the classroom:** Oregon currently provides a continuum of improvement support for school districts, bringing from universal technical assistance to invitational coaching to corrective action. But, the status quo is not working. The Governor proposes a hands-on approach when districts are behind on their metrics. This may include:

- ◆ Required coaching and intensive support, including support in developing organization-wide budget and strategies.
  - ◆ State directed spending of up to 25% of SSF and Student Investment Account (SIA) allocations
- **Less bureaucracy for school districts, more time to focus on students:** School districts need to focus on students, not duplicative reporting and paperwork that gathers dust on the shelf. Governor proposes directing the agency to reduce administrative burden on school districts by:
- ◆ Identifying non-essential reporting requirements that can be paused or eliminated.
  - ◆ Identifying state and federal programs that can be aligned.
  - ◆ Identifying statutory changes to simplify and align grants, programs, planning, reporting, and monitoring processes.
- **Focus on the school district and education district standards that boost student outcomes:** ODE will work with a third-party expert to prioritize reviewing, updating, pausing, or removing Division 22 and Division 24 standards, the state requirements that must be met to be a standard school district or education service district. These will be prioritized to focus on standards that best support student outcomes. ODE and the State Board of Education will determine the process for enforceability of standards to begin in the 2026-2027 school year. ODE will also establish a timeline to resolve complaints about district and education service district compliance with Division 22 and Division 24 standards through an updated appeals process. Currently, there is no timeline for resolving these complaints.

## Agency Accountability

ODE also must deliver for students, be responsive, and operate with best practices. In tandem with legislative action, the Governor has directed ODE to take action to improve grant consolidation, data collection and public transparency, improve internal operations, and elevate existing best practices and responsive support for school districts across Oregon.

### **Less bureaucracy for school districts, more time to focus on students:**

The Oregon education system has a complex web of funding and programs flowing into and out of ODE. This is inefficient and increases administrative burden on districts and ODE. The Governor will direct ODE to:

- Engage with other states who have successfully aligned programming
- Recommend additional state and federal programs that could be added into the agency's Integrated Guidance, which aligns multiple programs into one application and reporting process.
- Review procurement processes and policies to identify ways to streamline internal processes, execute multi-year grants and contracts for more than one program, and provide partial up-front funding.

## **Data and Public Transparency**

Oregonians deserve to have visibility into how the state is using education funds and how schools are performing for their students. This information should be easily understood and accessible. To promote transparency in our education system, the Governor will direct ODE to:

- Inventory data currently collected. Determine what is essential and what is not, making a recommendation of any data collections that should be released.
- Establish guidelines for data transparency and integration of evidence-based decision-making practices.
- Develop and implement a plan to post and regularly update data and progress on Longitudinal Performance Growth Target (LPGTs) and Local Optional Metric (LOMs).
- Engage with districts, Education Service Districts, Community Based Organizations, and other partners to determine what other information should be included on a transparency dashboard.
- Modify data collection systems to align to data that will continue to be collected, including but not limited to: financial information, workforce information, Division 22 standards, system health indicators, and discipline data.

## **Provide districts a helping hand to innovate and bring best practices to the classroom**

ODE must operate efficiently, responsively, and with best practices to be able to support Oregon's school districts. The Governor will direct ODE to:

- Refine continuum of supports and ensure all offices at ODE are operating under this aligned system of support.
- Contract with a third party to inventory staff work and capacity, and determine what gaps exist.
- Refine staff work and responsibilities, including reallocating staff time and capacity as needed.
- Increase staff capacity to analyze data.

## **For more information, contact:**

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