

Oregon

Spencer Stone

FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Oregon state legislature funds schools from three primary sources: the general fund, primarily income taxes; lottery receipts, and marijuana taxes. The budget is good for three years and runs from July 1 of odd years, and ends on June 30 of the next odd year; this budget will be in place from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. This year, the state allocated “Appropriates for the 2021-23 State School Fund, \$8,016.0 million from the General Fund, \$370.5 million from the Lottery revenues, \$36.0 million from marijuana taxes, \$676.9 million from the Fund for Student Success, \$200.0 million from the Education Stability Fund, and \$0.6 million from miscellaneous receipts.”¹ The state maintains a Education Stability Fund (ESF) to make up for shortfalls in the budget. At the end of the 2019 - 2021 biennium the fund contained \$621 million dollars.²

CHANGES TO FUNDING FORMULA FOR P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION.

There were not many changes to the funding formula in this session. House bill 2330 changes the weight of the average daily membership limit for the purpose of better funding small school districts.³

PRESSING STATE ISSUES AFFECTING P-12 AND/OR HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING.

Originally, house of representatives members asked for a budget of \$9.6 million dollars. This number was formulated with the understanding that schools might need additional funds coming out of the Covid Pandemic. However, this number was met with lower estimates from the Legislative Fiscal Office and the Governor’s office. This year’s session increased funding for the Public University Support Fund, Community College Support Fund, and an increase for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Lawmakers were concerned that the Covid outbreak might hurt funding, but stronger than expected revenue was collected.

EXCLUSIVE TO P-12: WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFERED BY YOUR STATE? WHAT DOES THE TREND IN FUNDING LOOK LIKE FOR THESE ALTERNATIVES?

House Bill 2501, which is currently tabled, seeks to create a voucher program

1. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/61176>

2. <https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book/Pages/facts/finance-state.aspx>

3. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2330>

along the lines of “money follows the child.” This bill has several questionable components - including race-based weighting and spending mandates. Senate Bill 743, which is also tabled, seeks to cut funding to national virtual schools that are currently seeing a windfall from Covid-related enrollments

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR YOUR STATE’S PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE
(BE SURE TO EXCLUDE LOCAL AND FEDERAL FUNDING)?

\$6,697⁴

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SHORT ANSWERS IN THE STATE
OF THE STATE SUMMARY: P-12 PER-PUPIL EXPENDITURE (JUST A
FIGURE)

\$12,875,956,970

8.76%

4. <https://educationdata.org/k12-enrollment-statistics>