A funding level of $6.55 billion would leave Gresham-Barlow School District with a budget shortfall of $6.5 million. This is the equivalent of losing 64 teachers or cutting 17 school days.

At this funding level, Gresham-Barlow employees would again be asked to make significant concessions in salary and benefits, students would again have their school year shortened significantly and continue to experience even higher class sizes, and our school board would be faced with making even deeper cuts to our programs, services and support structures.

No matter how heroic the efforts of our teachers, additional cuts for 2013-14 that result higher class sizes and fewer school days would, almost certainly, mean a negative impact on student performance.

A funding level of $6.75 billion would bring some stability to Gresham-Barlow School District.

Although we would still be faced with a $3.6 million shortfall, and we would still need to cut some school days and depend on our employees to continue to make some concessions, this funding level would result in relative stability (compared to the past four years) for Gresham-Barlow schools.

By extension, we believe that this would also mean stability in student achievement.

With a State School Fund of $6.895 billion, Gresham-Barlow would still have some budget challenges, but would also likely have the flexibility to make some small but important investments, such as:

- Making progress toward a full school year,
- Stabilizing class sizes,
- Maintaining key programs and electives, and/or
- Making a few targeted investments aimed at improving achievement for all students.

With this funding level, Gresham-Barlow schools would be able to move toward being on a trajectory for achieving Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.