



COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS

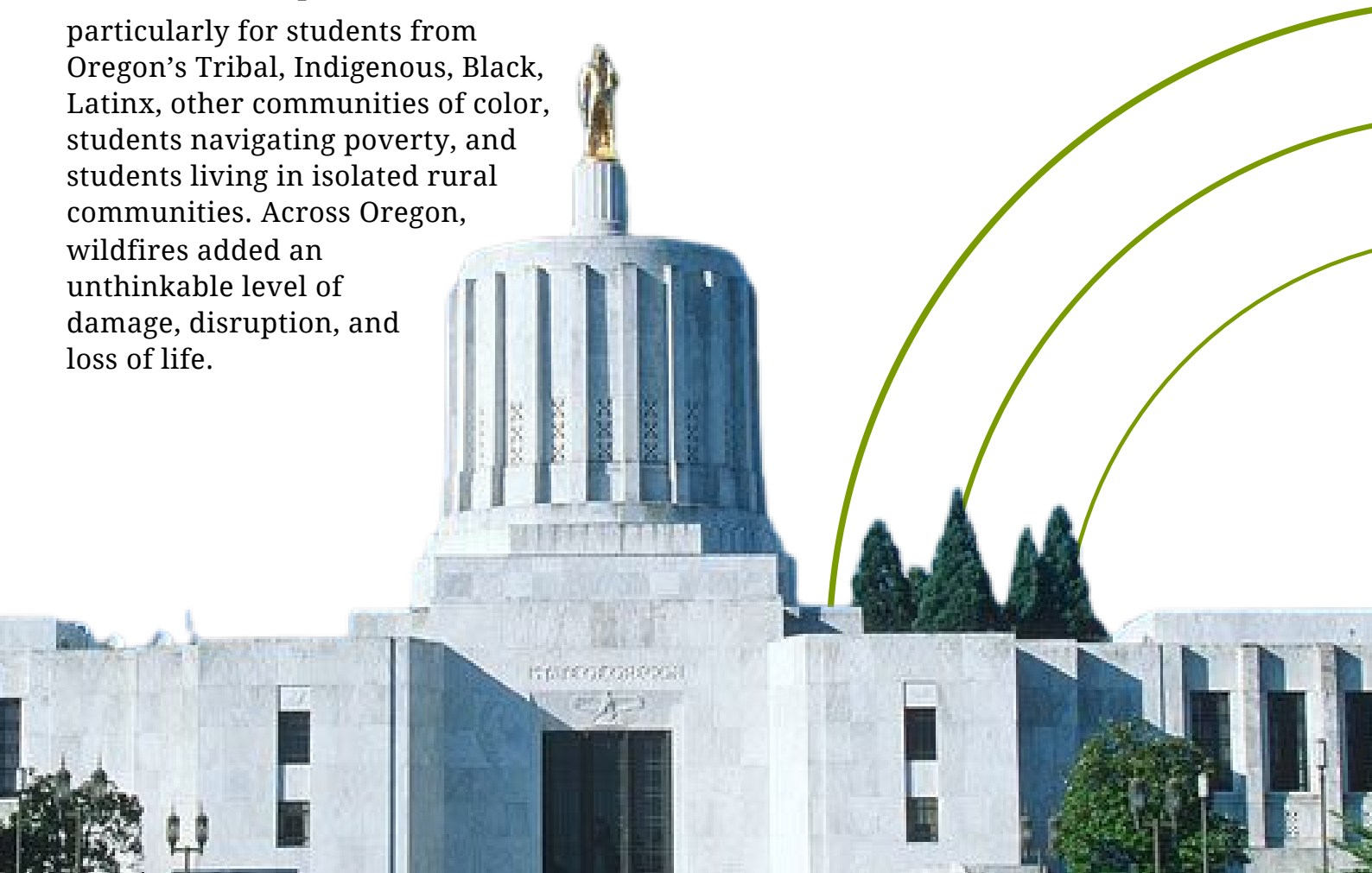
2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The 2021 Legislative Session is our opportunity to fulfill the promise of the Student Success Act and build on the historic investments of 2019. These investments collectively marked an important turning point — one that will help Oregon begin to recover from three decades of underinvestment in K-12 education, while advancing innovative policies that embed educational equity and community collaboration to increase student success.

For our students and their families, the 2020-21 school year is a time of upheaval and uncertainty. The global pandemic has taken a massive human and economic toll on our state. It has slowed K-12 investments and further exacerbated inequities across our state, particularly for students from Oregon's Tribal, Indigenous, Black, Latinx, other communities of color, students navigating poverty, and students living in isolated rural communities. Across Oregon, wildfires added an unthinkable level of damage, disruption, and loss of life.

Despite all of this, our students are resilient and our educators are working tirelessly to meet the challenges of the moment. Whether it is delivering meals on school buses or bridging the digital divide, our schools are doing their best to provide the best education possible for students. And our students are stepping up — Oregon's graduating class of 2020 set an all-time high with an 82.6% graduation rate.

In addition to advocating for our 2021 legislative priorities, COSA members are focused on ensuring that all school districts and education service districts have the tools and resources they need to deal effectively with COVID-19 and safely return to in-person instruction.



1

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF THE STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Full funding for the SSA

- Full funding for the Student Investment Account (SIA) to ensure a focus on equity, community collaboration, and meeting the social and emotional needs of our students as they return to in-person learning.
- Increased investments in Oregon's statewide equity plans, including the Black/African American Student Success Plan, the Latino/a/x Student Success Plan, and the American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Plan.
- Full funding for critical statewide investments for School Nutrition Programs, High School Success (Measure 98), Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education, and "Grow Your Own" programs intended to diversify our educator workforce.

2

STATE SCHOOL FUND

Protecting District Operational Budgets During a Pandemic

To avoid significant cuts to services, staff layoffs, or increased class sizes, Oregon needs to invest at least \$9.6 billion in the State School Fund to ensure that there is sufficient funding to continue offering the same level of educational and wrap-around services.

3

FULL FUNDING FOR HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS (BALLOT MEASURE 98)

Full funding for High School Success (\$314.5 million) will help districts reach more students through meaningful investments in CTE, college readiness, and dropout prevention.

4

ADVANCING EQUITY POLICIES TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND SCHOOLS

- Prioritize policies and investments that ensure that districts are able to recruit and retain a diverse workforce, even in the face of budget challenges.
- Elevate and support student leaders of color in the policymaking process by creating a Racial Equity and Justice Student Council.
- Require training for school boards and superintendents to better understand school governance and how to utilize an equity lens to improve student outcomes (*SB 334*).
- Promote linguistic inclusion for Oregon students by replacing English (or English language arts) with "language arts," which includes reading, writing, and other communication in any language, including English (*HB 2056*).
- Support the LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan by investing \$2.2 million for implementation and support (*SB 52*).
- Allow Native students to wear traditional regalia or objects of cultural significance at school graduation ceremonies (*HB 2052*).
- Prohibit the use or display of any symbols of hate on school property or in education programs - also known as "All Students Belong" (*HB 2697*).
- Advocate that federal COVID resources be used for equity focused programs that help students recover from missed learning opportunities like extending the school year, adding summer programs, and increasing before and after school enrichment.



5

TARGETED INVESTMENTS IN K-12 FACILITIES, SMALL SCHOOLS, AND GRANT-IN-AID

- Continue investments in the Seismic Rehabilitation Program and Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program to address aging buildings, the backlog of deferred maintenance, and the need to seismically upgrade schools.
- Boost investments in broadband, connectivity, and other technology needs for students to be able to access educational resources.
- Provide targeted resources to school districts with qualifying small high schools and dormitories (*HB 2330*).
- Ensure that budgets for low-incidence programs in the ODE budget, including Regional Programs, Long-Term Care and Treatment, and Youth Corrections and Youth Detention Education, meet the needs of all students being served.

6

KEY POLICY CHANGES

- Bring Oregon's school safety statutes in line with federal law by banning the open carry of firearms within 1000 feet of a school (*LC 2192*).
- Allow districts that sponsor virtual charters to receive extended ADMw if their district schools are declining in enrollment; capping extended ADMw payments for virtual charter schools at 10% for the 2021-23 biennium (*LC 3435*).
- Ensure stable funding for the next five years for school districts most impacted by the wildfires (Phoenix-Talent, McKenzie, and Santiam Canyon).

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