

HOW WILL POTENTIAL 2015-17 STATE SCHOOL FUND LEVELS IMPACT THE FUTURE OF OREGON STUDENTS?

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

\$7.235 Billion
Underfunded Schools

CURRENT CO-CHAIRS' BUDGET LEVEL

With a State School Fund of \$7.235 billion, Bethel schools will implement full-day kindergarten but this will come at a cost to all students, who will lose at least two instructional days and experience higher class sizes.

As the state budget grows, it is time to return compensation levels for this dedicated staff of professionals. Since 2009 Bethel teachers have stepped-up and willingly gave up cost-of-living and seniority step increases, lost wages to furlough days, and even worked a day without pay.

Bottom line, this falls nearly \$300 million short of what schools like ours need to maintain current programs and add full-day kindergarten.

- \$136/
Student

\$7.5 Billion
Fragile Stability

A funding level of \$7.5 billion lets Bethel maintain current programs and services, while adding full-day kindergarten. However, this funding level only prevents cuts and will not change the fundamental conditions that have caused:

- Oregon students to receive about one year less instructional time than the national average. In fact, Bethel will still experience one lost instructional day at this funding level.
- Oregon students to experience the second-highest class sizes in the nation, with six more students per teacher than the national average. Bethel's classes will still not return to pre-recession (2008) sizes at this funding level.
- Oregon schools to rank near the bottom in closing the achievement gap and graduation rates.

+ \$130/
Student

\$7.875 Billion
Improvement Trajectory

This funding level will allow Bethel to:

- return to a full school year,
- return to pre-recession (2008) class sizes
- implement programs and services for students who need them most, and
- implement full-day kindergarten.

Over time, this investment will result in:

- Greater third-grade literacy
- Higher graduation rates
- Improved outcomes for ELL students
- Reduced achievement gaps

\$7.875 billion represents the first step on a ten-year trajectory to reach the Quality Education Commission's recommended funding level of about \$9.2 billion – which happens to be the level needed for Oregon schools to reach the national average for instructional time and class size. In Oregon we used to think of ourselves as above average...now we find ourselves in a struggle just to get to average. Our children deserve more!

+ \$380/
Student

Oregon lags behind the nation in our investment in education. Bringing Oregon schools to the national average would require investment beyond \$7.875 Billion.

What would it take to bring Oregon schools up to the national average for:

instructional time
+\$450 Million

class size
+\$1.2 Billion

**Help Us Build
The Schools
Our Students Deserve!**

