

SB 1552: Stabilized Funding for Juvenile Justice Education Programs

(Sections 20-27 of -1 Amendment)

Oregon's juvenile justice system includes:

- 11 county-operated juvenile detention centers across the state
- 8 secure state-operated (Oregon Youth Authority) facilities

Youth in these facilities are due an education just as any other child in Oregon. Educational services to youth in the justice system are provided through:

- the Juvenile Detention Education Program (JDEP), which serves students in county facilities
- the Youth Corrections Education Program (YCEP), which serves students in OYA facilities

In recent years, funding for JDEP and YCEP has fallen short:

- JDEP/YCEP are required to provide a longer school year, but get no additional funding
 - 220 days vs an average of 180 days for a standard school
- Students with special needs receive less funding in JDEP/YCEP than they would in a traditional school 35% of JDEP students qualify for special education and 47% of YCEP students qualify - that's 2- and 3-times the rate of a standard school district - but these programs don't receive additional funding for special education students
- Funding has decreased due to lower enrollment, but overhead costs have remained the same
 - A teacher costs the same amount, whether you have 5 students in the class or 10 students

In 2021, the Legislature made a one-time \$8 million General Fund allocation to JDEP and YCEP. In 2023, that was increased to \$8.3 million. With these investments, we've finally been able to adequately fund the staffing levels necessary to support students. In order to ensure the ongoing success of these investments, we need the following changes:

SB 1552:

- Creates a dedicated account, the Juvenile Justice Education Fund (JJEF), to cover students in both JDEP and YCEP
- Authorizes the use of Statewide Education Initiatives Account for funding the JJEF
- Provides a calculation for how ODE shall determine the amount needed in the JJEF each biennium, and requires a biennial report to the Legislature
- Establishes criteria ODE shall consider when setting contract amounts with educational providers to ensure the most targeted use of resources

