

# Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

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# Overview

- ▶ Higher Education Coordinating Commission created by SB 242 (2011), updated by SB 1538 (2012)
- ▶ 15 members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- ▶ Responsible for strategic planning for post-secondary coordination and investment
- ▶ Oversees Office of Degree Authorization (from OSAC as of July 1, 2012) and regulation of private career schools (from ODE as of July 1, 2013)
- ▶ Not funded in 2011-13.



*Governor Kitzhaber signs Senate Bill 242 with (pictured left to right) Senator Mark Hass, Representatives Tobias Read, Mike Dembrow, Mark Johnson, and Portland Community College President Dr. Preston Pulliams.*

Portland Business Alliance 7-20-11

# 351.735<sup>1</sup> HECC Duties and Powers

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall:

- (1) Develop state goals and associated accountability measures for the state post-secondary education system, including community colleges and public universities listed in ORS
- (2) Develop a strategic plan for achieving state higher education goals, identifying priority areas for attention and taking into consideration the contributions of this states independent institutions and other organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians reach state goals.
- (3) Evaluate and recommend changes to statutory goals and missions described for community colleges in ORS
- (4) Develop a finance model for higher education aligned with the goals in the system strategic plan
- (5) Each biennium, recommend to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly a consolidated higher education budget request consistent with the finance model
- (6) Design and maintain a statewide educational data system, in collaboration with the State Board of Education
- (7) Coordinate with the Oregon Student Access Commission to maximize the effectiveness of student financial assistance programs, including the Oregon Opportunity Grant program under ORS
- (8) Approve and authorize degrees for the Oregon University System.
- (9) Authorize degrees to be offered in this state in accordance with ORS

# 2012-13 Commission Activities

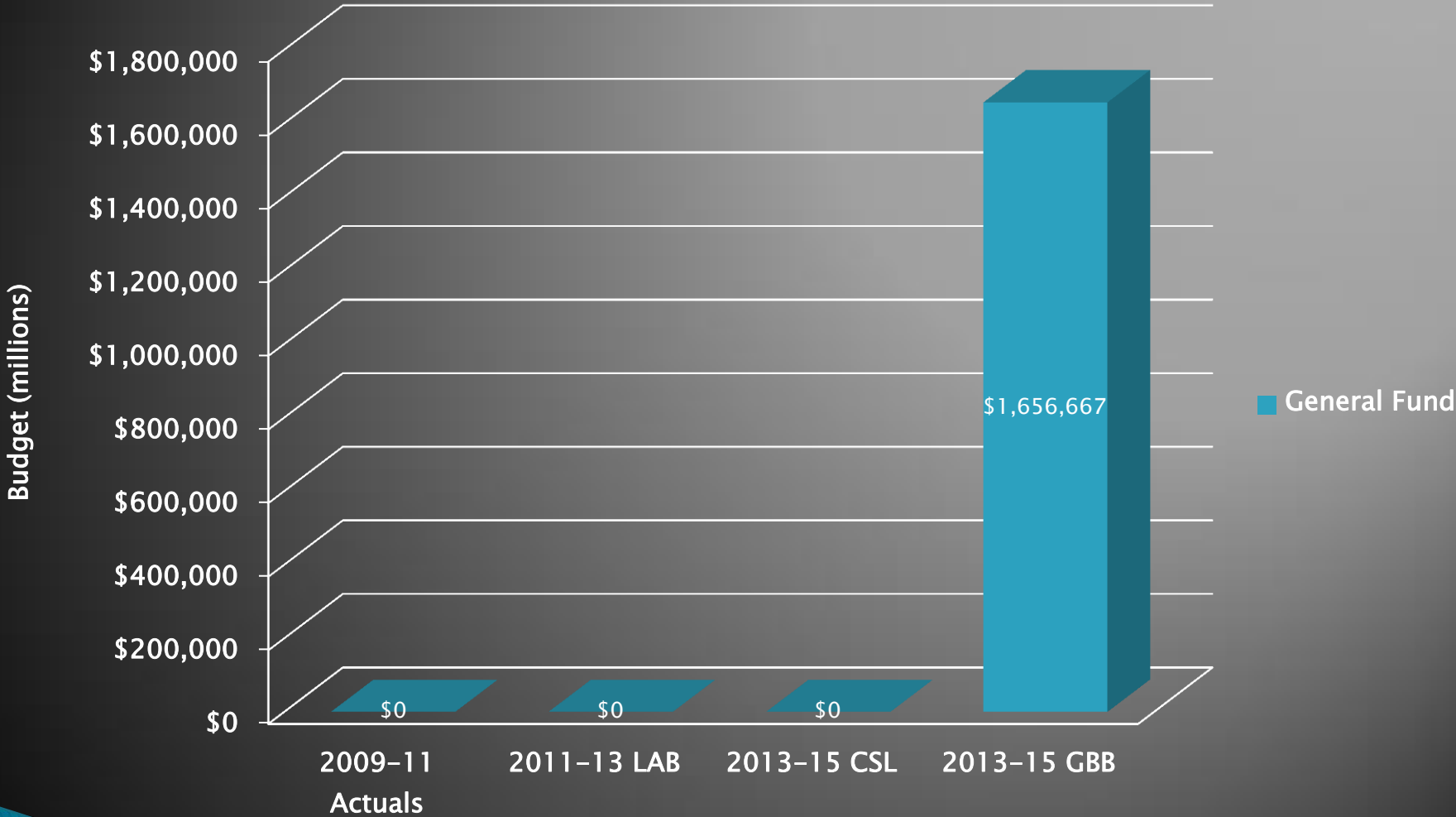
- ▶ Credit for Prior Learning workgroup (HB 4059)
- ▶ Recommendations related to Western Governors' University (HB 4059)
- ▶ Textbook Affordability study (HB 4058)
- ▶ Ad hoc staff support from Governor's Office, OEIB, OUS, CCWD



# 2013–15 Potential Issues

- ▶ Integration and support for ODA and private career schools units
- ▶ The assumption of significant responsibilities for the university system (SB 270)
- ▶ The assumption of significant responsibilities for community colleges and financial aid (HB 3120)
- ▶ Other legislative directives (work groups, task forces, etc.)

# Higher Education Coordinating Commission Expenditure History/2013-15 Governor's Budget





# Office of Degree Authorization

# Overview

- ▶ The mission of our office is to assist Oregon students and their families in attaining a postsecondary education and to enhance the value, integrity, and diversity of Oregon's college programs.
- ▶ The Office of Degree Authorization provides for the protection of the citizens of Oregon and their postsecondary schools by ensuring the quality of higher education and preserving the integrity of an academic degree as a public credential.
- ▶ ODA administers laws, standards, and services that protect students, holders of legitimately earned degrees, institutions, businesses, employers, patients or clients, and licensing boards.



# The Office of Degree Authorization has Three Principal Functions:

- ▶ Degree Authorization
- ▶ Adverse Impact Mediation
  - ▶ Degree Validation

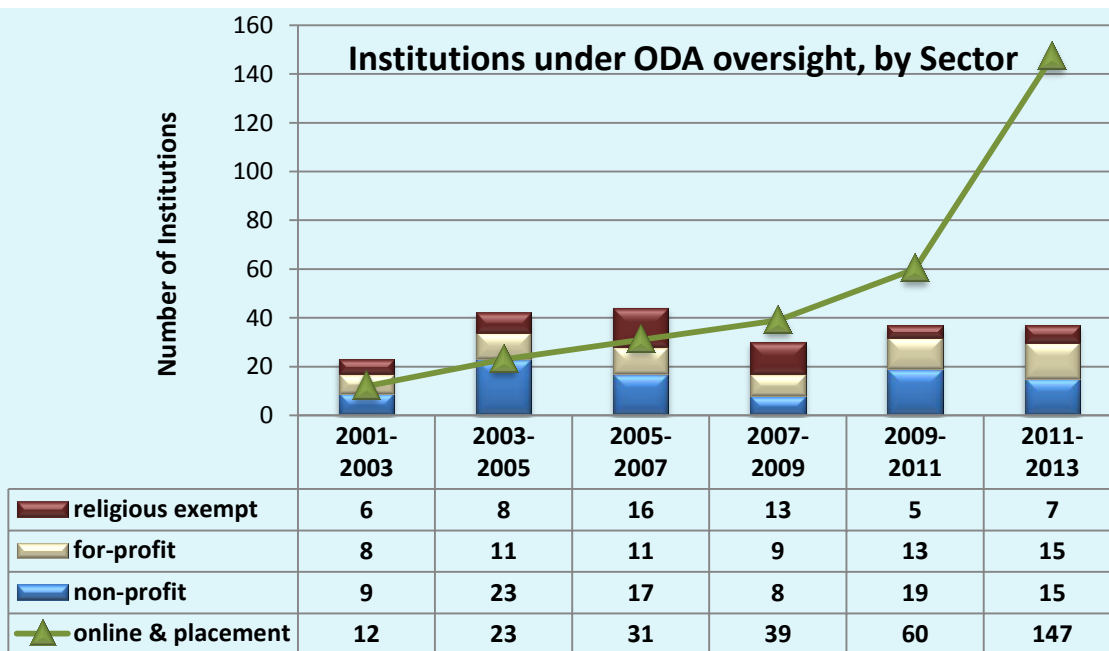
# Degree Program Authorization

- ▶ **ODA evaluates and approves** degree-granting institutions of higher education with active programs in Oregon that are:
  - For profit, *or*
  - Lack regional accreditation, *or*
  - Have operated in Oregon for fewer than 5 years, *or*
  - Offer degree programs from a location outside Oregon
  
- ▶ **ODA is not responsible for** evaluation/approval of:
  - Private independent colleges that are regionally accredited and have operated in Oregon under oversight for >5 years
  - Public colleges, universities (OUS)
  - Community colleges (ODE)
  - Career schools that do not have degree programs (ODE)

# Degree Program Authorization

The number of schools under ODA authorization changes due to statutory or regulatory changes and trends in higher education.

*(e.g. for-profit colleges under oversight increased after 2009 law change, exempt religious schools decreased after establishing reporting requirements; online programs expanded rapidly since 2009)*



# Adverse Impact Mediation

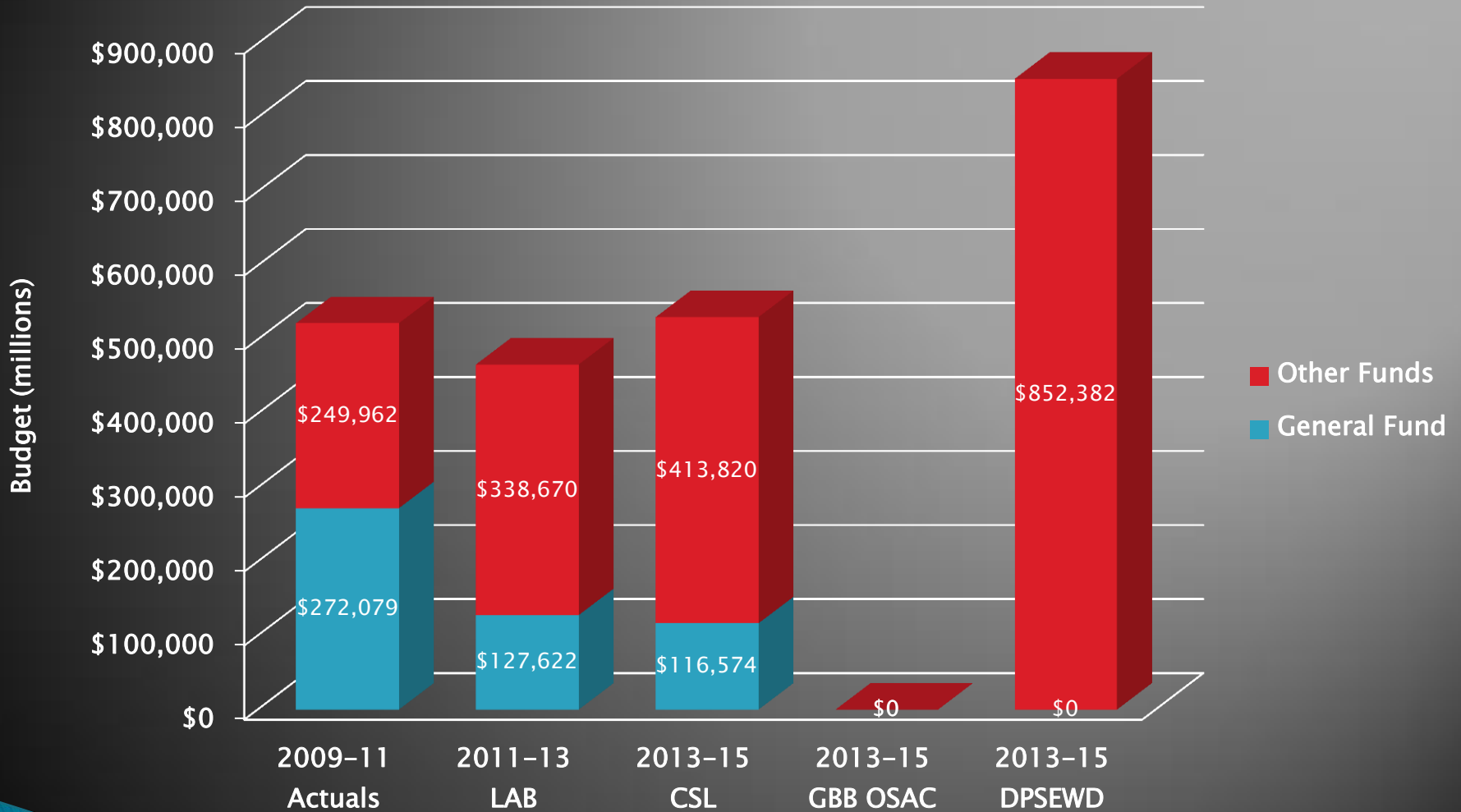
- ▶ The **purpose** of the adverse impact process is to avoid use of public funds for duplication of college programs in the same geographic area.
- ▶ ODA's role in the adverse impact process is to:
  - *mediate and facilitate discussions between schools*
  - *recommend a decision to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission*
- ▶ ODA currently receives **no funding dedicated to adverse impact cases.**

# Degree Validation

- ▶ ODA provides information and validation services for:
  - *Academic credentials and Accreditation => for Oregon employers, licensing boards, and public inquiries*
  - *Equivalency of a foreign or unaccredited degree => for individuals*
- ▶ ODA investigates reports of illegal degree use and sends orders to cease and desist claim of a degree to persons who are:
  - *claiming a degree they haven't earned*
  - *claiming a degree for public or professional purposes in Oregon that was obtained from an unaccredited school not authorized in Oregon*
- ▶ ODA responds to public and media inquiries about accreditation and authorization, and participates in national and international initiatives:
  - *Council of State Governments working group on inter-state reciprocity*
  - *Network of international higher education professionals*
- ▶ ODA receives no funding dedicated to degree validation services

# Office of Degree Authorization

## Expenditure History/2013-15 Governor's Budget





# Overview of Private Career Schools & PCS Licensing Unit



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# What are career schools?

- ▶ They are private, postsecondary institutions that offer career or vocational training. Primarily for-profit, but a few are incorporated as nonprofit entities.
- ▶ They are licensed, certificate-granting institutions.
- ▶ They collectively enroll about 30,000 new students and graduate about 18,000 students in Oregon each year.
- ▶ Their graduates contribute to the middle '40' in Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.

# What training do they provide?

- ▶ Oregon has about 227 private career schools which provide significant technical and vocational training opportunities for Oregonians in many diverse fields, such as:

- Healthcare



- Insurance



- Tax Preparation



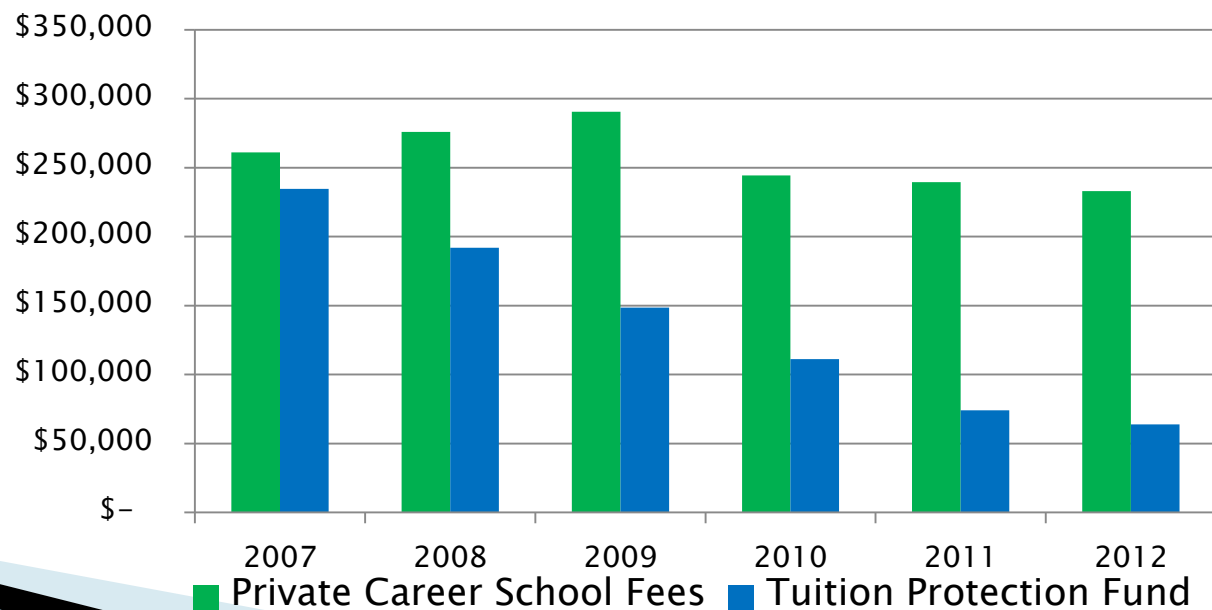
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# What does the PCS Licensing Unit do?

- ▶ License career schools doing business in Oregon.
- ▶ Approve programs offered by new and existing career schools.
- ▶ Investigate and respond to student complaints regarding career schools.
- ▶ Provide significant technical assistance to career school licensees and license applicants.

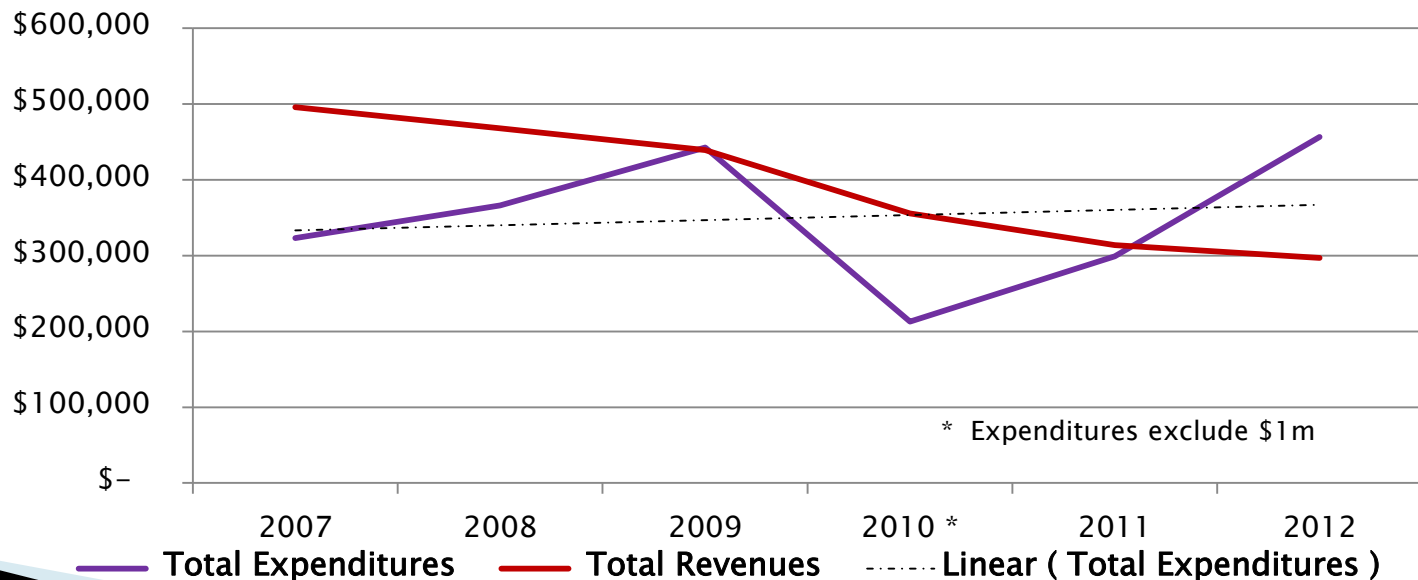
# How is the PCS Licensing Unit funded?

- ▶ The PCS Licensing Unit is funded through the fees it collects for issuing licenses, teacher registrations, copies of transcripts, and the Tuition Protection Fund.
  - It does not receive any General Fund dollars.



# How is the PCS Licensing Unit funded?

- ▶ The PCS Licensing Unit's licensing fee schedule is set in statute at ORS 345.080(1).
  - The fees have not been changed since 1999 – 14 years ago.
  - The Unit's expenses have not remained at 1999 levels.





# Proposed changes to how the PCS Licensing Unit is funded.

- ▶ HB 2185 – Would make three changes to PCS funding:
  - On July 1, 2013, it would (1) amend fee schedule in ORS 345.080(1) to increase licensing fees, and (2) give authority to adopt other fees, such as fees for late submissions or processing teacher registrations.
  - On July 1, 2015, it would (3) remove the fee schedule from statute and give the Higher Education Coordinating Commission authority to establish fees by administrative rule.
- ▶ HB 2188 – Would allow ODE (and, subsequently, the Commission) to retain from assessed civil penalties reasonable costs related to investigations and penalty assessment.

# How is the PCS Licensing Unit Staffed?

- ▶ Licensing Unit staff presently includes:
  - 3 Permanent positions; and
  - 2 Limited Duration positions.
    - Limited Duration positions expire on June 30, 2013.
  - Permanent positions will carry over to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission when authority for the program transfers on July 1, 2013. Limited Duration positions won't.
  
- ▶ Licensing Unit and career schools program will transfer to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on July 1, 2013.

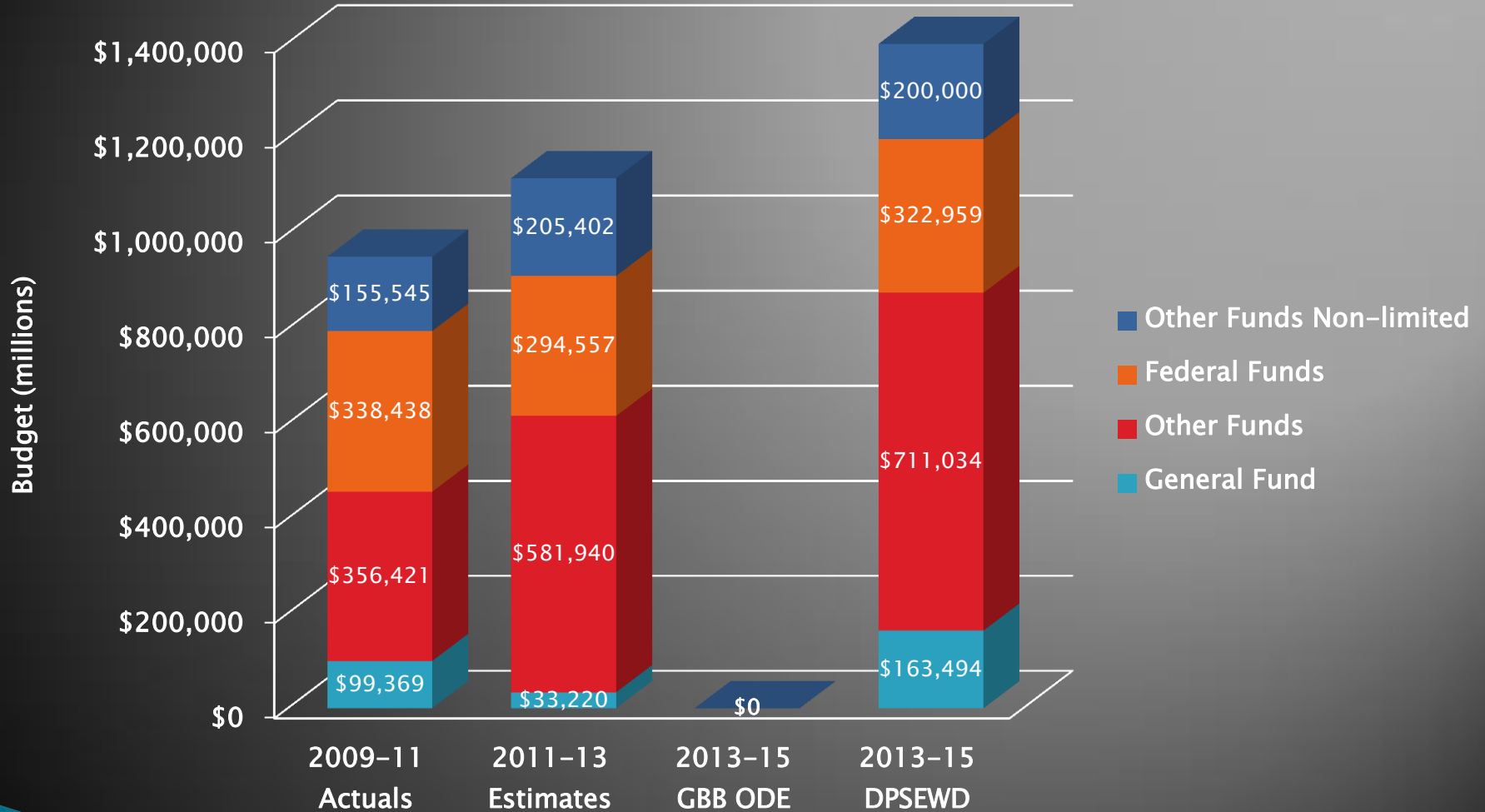
# If you have any questions...

- ▶ Please visit our website:  
<http://www.ode.state.or/go/pcs>
- ▶ Licensing Unit staff are available to answer your questions. Contact Matthew Barber at [matt.barber@state.or.us](mailto:matt.barber@state.or.us) or (503) 947-5716.



DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# Private Career Schools/Veterans' Education Expenditure History/2013-15 Governor's Budget



# HECC/ODA/PCS

## Revenue Sources

- ▶ Higher Education Coordinating Commission
  - General Fund
  
- ▶ Office of Degree Authorization
  - Fees paid by colleges and universities or individuals for program evaluation and approval, and degree authorization
  - Senate Bill 102 restructures and increases program review fees
  
- ▶ Private Career Schools/Veterans' Education
  - Licensing fees paid by schools
  - Tuition Protection Fund assessments paid by schools
  - U.S. Department of Veteran's Administration contract
  - General Fund (adjustment to Governor's budget)
  - House Bill 2185 increases licensing fees