

OEIB Strategic Investments in Student Success (\$34.2 million)

I. Overview

The Governor and Chief Education Officer recommend, as a high priority, the funding of 3 strategic investments. The 3 strategic investments, totaling roughly \$34.2 million, are specifically intended to:

- 1) **Rapidly improve performance** on several key measures of progress, including Kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading proficiency, 9th grade progress toward graduation, high school completion, and college enrollment.
- 2) **Decrease the achievement gap** that exists between historically underserved populations and white Oregonians on the key measures; and
- 3) **Increase levels of educational attainment and employability** for Oregonians.

More than **96%** of these strategic investments will flow out to providers of education (early learning providers, K-12 districts/schools, community colleges, public universities, nonprofit organizations) that are identified based on Requests for Proposals, applications, or defining criteria (details follow). With the exception of \$250,000 that will remain in the Oregon Education Investment Board for early literacy coordination, the remaining dollars are divided among the P-20 education agencies for administration.

While the agencies will administer the strategic investment dollars, it is crucial to the success of these initiatives that Oregon's Chief Education Officer will **maintain the responsibility and authority for developing and implementing the strategic investment** initiatives described herein, including the development of Requests for Proposals and selection of recipients. This authority to direct and control the agencies for the purposes of creating a unified P-20 system was set forth in SB 1581.

The Chief Education Officer shall establish performance measures and direct all administering agencies and recipients to accumulate, evaluate and publish data on each measure in order to evaluate the impact of the strategic initiatives on student outcomes.

All strategic investment dollars shall be distributed in a manner that promotes the following goals:

- (1) Ensuring progress toward the **40-40-20 Goal** and improving the employability of Oregon graduates;
- (2) **Closing the achievement gap** that exists between historically underserved student groups and other students;
- (3) Ensuring access to strategic investments **across all regions of the state, including rural Oregon;**
- (4) **Promoting collaboration and alignment** across the education continuum (early learning providers, K-12 institutions, community colleges, universities and employers) and leveraging private, public and community resources;

- (5) **Engaging parents**, supporting families and motivating students;
- (6) Using **evidence-based** or emerging best practices likely to improve student outcomes; and
- (7) Collecting data, disseminating best practices and participating in networks aimed at replicating **sustainable approaches** across the state.

II. Initiatives

Early Literacy Initiative: The \$9.25 million Oregon Early Literacy Initiative is established to improve Kindergarten readiness and 3rd grade reading proficiency through programs that: (a) start early in children’s lives and involve parents, childcare providers and the community in ensuring all children have an early start at reading; (b) expand the amount of time, adult support, materials, cultural relevance and sense of joy that literacy brings; and (c) provide the differentiated instruction necessary for every Oregon student to read in the primary grades. The Early Literacy Initiative includes the following components:

- **Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education**

\$1.8 million to be administered by the Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education under the direction of the Early Learning Council.

- (1) \$250,000 for the creation and distribution of **web-based and print materials** and curriculum promoting early literacy (projected reach: 50,000 Oregon families).
- (2) (2) \$800,000 in grants to public libraries, early learning providers, nonprofit organizations, or K-12 school districts to expand and encourage **access to school and public libraries** and to celebrate and **encourage reading** in the home (projected reach: statewide; 2-5 grants from \$100,000 to \$500,000 to organizations/institutions with a history of successfully promoting literacy across a region or set of communities).
- (3) (3) \$750,000 in grants to early learning providers, school districts, post-secondary institutions or nonprofit organizations to provide early learning educators, families or caregivers with **engagement, instruction and professional development opportunities** in early literacy (15-20 grants of \$25,000 to \$50,000; projected reach: 5000 educators, parents or caregivers).

- **Oregon Department of Education**

\$7 million to be administered by the Oregon Department of Education

- (1) \$5 million to **support struggling Title I elementary schools** (federally-designated as “Priority” or “Focus”) to implement plans for increasing 3rd grade reading proficiency through extended or expanded reading opportunities, such as using summer breaks, intersessions, afterschool, weekends and technology in innovative and powerful ways (distributed based on enrollment to 30-45 focus or priority elementary schools that meet

criteria established by CEEdO; criteria will demonstrate need, readiness, collaboration, implementation plans).

- (2) \$2 million to be administered by the Oregon Department of Education to **expand Oregon's Response to Intervention (RTI) Network** (distributed by RFP to 1-2 lead organizations, currently Tigard Tualatin School District, for the training/support of 25-30 additional school districts to join the existing 60 districts).

- **Oregon Education Investment Board**

\$250,000 to be administered by OEIB for purposes of developing a statewide approach to early reading awareness and provide **technical assistance and coordination on overall initiative**.

- **Oregon State Library**

\$200,000 to be administered by the State Library for a public library initiative to develop opportunities for **cross-age mentoring and support for emerging readers**.

Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations Initiative. The \$10.4 million Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations initiative is established to increase the number of 9th grade students who are on-track for graduation and to increase the number of students who earn a high school diploma and enroll in post-secondary by (a) supporting comprehensive systems of monitoring and support for struggling students and (b) ensuring that middle and high school students who have never thought of themselves as college-going are directed toward, and able to access, post-secondary and career and technical opportunities that match their interests.

The Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations initiative includes the following components:

- **Student Access Division of the Department of Post-Secondary (currently OSAC)**

\$1.9 million to support an **expansion of the ASPIRE program**, which operates in public middle, high school and nonprofit sites across Oregon providing mentoring and support to build college-going culture in underserved students. This amount includes 11 staff, who would provide support to ASPIRE as well as support and coordination for all elements of the initiative.

- **Department of Post-Secondary (currently CCWD)**

\$5.5 million to be administered by the Department of Post-Secondary (or CCWD):

- (1) \$2.5 million for grants to K-12 districts, community college, post-secondary institutions and/or nonprofit organizations to educate and engage underserved or first-generation college-going students and their families through **innovative counseling programs, parent advocacy and**

education, college visits and college success initiatives, FAFSA completion support or college and career information nights (projected reach: 25,000 students and families; 25-30 grants of \$50,000 to \$100,000).

- (2) \$3 million for (a) **scholarships** (administered by the Oregon Student Access Commission or its successor) to pay for the first credit-bearing course for qualifying students who earn the Oregon diploma and enroll in an Oregon post-secondary institution within 9 months; and (b) grants to K-12 school districts for programs aimed at increasing access for underserved students to AP, IB, dual credit and other **accelerated learning opportunities** in high school. (projected reach: 6000-10,000 students).

- **Oregon Department of Education**

\$3 million to be administered by the Oregon Department of Education for grants to consortiums of K-12 districts, ESDs, community colleges and/or nonprofit organizations to implement **comprehensive systems for monitoring and guiding progress**, and providing individualized planning, mentoring, tutoring, summer enrichment and/or other support services to students, grades 6-10, who are not on track to earn a high school diploma. (projected reach: 5000 students; 10-12 grants of \$200,000 to \$350,000).

Connecting to the World of Work Initiative. The \$13.5 million Connecting to the World of Work initiative is established to increase students' proficiency in science and math, to increase engagement and essential college and career skills, and to connect them with the world of work, through (1) regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) centers; (2) investment in programs that engage underserved students in science, technology, engineering, math and arts-related industries; and (3) consortiums of districts and post-secondary institutions committed to developing more innovative, flexible pathways for grades 9-14.

The Connecting to the World of Work initiative will include the following components:

- **Oregon Department of Education**

\$13 million will be administered by the Oregon Department of Education for:

- (1) \$2.5 million for grants to consortiums of K-12 districts, post-secondary, private industry and/or nonprofit organizations for the creation of 3-5 regional **STEM Network Sites** that will centralize and expand existing regional work around STEM and Career and Technical Education (CTE), including business, community and cross-institutional partnerships. STEM Network Sites will be chosen by RFP and required to complete the following, at a minimum:

- i. Work collaboratively with ODE, Department of Post-Secondary and the STEM Network;

- ii. Operate a clearinghouse of STEM / CTE resources and opportunities in the region to support educators in accessing appropriate and effective programs, curriculum and partners
- iii. Act as a one-stop resource for schools and institutions, providing recommendations and support for enhancing STEM opportunities in schools through core curriculum, CTE / STEM elective training or opportunities for hands-on application.
- iv. Connect schools and institutions and, where needed, students, families and home schools, with extended STEM resources including business partnerships and Internships

(2) \$3 million for **3-5 flagship STEM (or STEAM) schools**, located at existing or newly-formed public schools, selected via RFP from Oregon school districts or post-secondary institutions authorized to sponsor or operate a 6-14 school. The schools will not only offer state-of-the-art education to the students they serve, but will serve as dissemination sites of best practice and **hubs of teacher (candidates and existing) and faculty training in STEM**. Grants will range from \$300,000 to \$1 million for start-up costs such as (1) curriculum and assessment design; (2) educator professional development; (3) technology and infrastructure. (projected reach: 500-1500 students; 1500 teachers and faculty).

(3) \$2.5 million for grants to K-12 school districts or public schools, post-secondary institutions and/or nonprofit organizations to **increase STEM and CTE learning opportunities for underserved students and girls** through program development, technology and equipment purchases, and transportation. (projected reach: 10,000 students: 25-30 grants from \$10,000 to \$250,000).

(4) \$5 million for grants to consortiums of district(s), community college(s) and 4-year institutions to design more **individualized, innovative, flexible ways of delivering content, awarding credit**, and reducing the need for, while improving the quality of, post-secondary developmental education. These will be large-scale dissemination project that will conclude with recommendations related to (1) redesigning credit recovery / developmental education; (2) cross-sector professional learning communities; (3) removal of licensure or other barriers to serving students in 11-14; (4) using technology and other innovations to redesign high school / post-secondary institutions and (5) **removing barriers in funding formulas**. (3-5 grants of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million).

- **Oregon Arts Commission**

\$500,000 to be administered by the Arts Commission, in collaboration with a STEM advisory council, for grants to K-12 districts or public schools, post-secondary institutions and/or nonprofit organizations to increase opportunities for students to **engage and connect with arts-related industries**. (projected reach: 3000-5000 students; 10-20 grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000).

