Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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Subcommittee on Education

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TO:	Education Subcommittee Members
FROM:	Doug Wilson, LFO
DATE:	March 18, 2013
RE:	Oregon Student Access Commission– House Bill 5032

The Education Subcommittee will begin the phase 1 of the budget process for the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) on March 16th. This memo points out major policy and budget issues for the Subcommittee to consider. There have not been any audit issues for the past four biennia identified or any budget notes and issues from the previous session. Resources available on OLIS for Subcommittee members besides this memo include the 2013-15 Governor's Balanced Budget Binder, the LFO Budget Review, the Power Point presentation prepared by OSAC, and the DAS presentation on the OSAC budget.

Major Policy and Budget Issues

- Funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant program has not kept pace with tuition growth for a number of years. CSL funding for the program is \$105.5 million, an increase of roughly \$6 million over 2011-13 levels. The Governor's budget further expands the program by \$8.3 million over the CSL.
- The ASPIRE program has depended on Federal and Other Funds sources for much of its total resources for 2011-13. Unfortunately, these sources have partially dried up leaving a program with two positions and insufficient resources to maintain the number of school sites it operates at. The Governor's budget increases both the General Fund resources by \$1.9 million and adds 11 new positions for the program.
- The Governor has proposed further reorganization relating to OSAC by eliminating the agency and transferring its functions and resources to the newly proposed Department of Post-Secondary Education.