

## Analysis

### Department of Education and Oregon Education Investment Board

#### Report on Strategic Initiatives and Network of Quality Teaching and Learning

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**Analyst:** Doug Wilson

**Request:** Acknowledge receipt of a report on strategic initiatives and the Network of Quality Teaching and Learning.

**Recommendation:** Acknowledge receipt of the report.

**Analysis:** The Budget Reports for the primary funding bills for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) both included the following budget note:

*The Oregon Education Investment Board, the Oregon Department of Education and other education related agencies are directed to report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2014 Legislative Session on the progress of implementing the education strategic initiatives and the Network for Quality Teaching and Learning. The report shall include, at the least, the following:*

- 1. For each individual program, the total amount of grants or contracts awarded or entered into, the amount of grants or contracts committed to but not awarded, and the amount of funding remaining to be committed.*
- 2. For each individual program, a list of recipients of the grant award or contract, a short description of program or service the grant or contract was for, the target group of the program or service, the anticipated number served by the grant or contract, and the anticipated outcome of the grant or contract.*
- 3. Any changes to law or practice that would improve the initiatives or network that should be considered by the Legislature during the 2014 or 2015 sessions.*
- 4. Any transfer of funding between individual programs and initiatives from the amount of funding assumed during the 2013 session and the rationale for making each of the transfers.*

An interim progress report related to this budget note was presented to the Education Subcommittee of the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means in November 2013.

Approximately \$29.3 million General Fund (before the 2% supplemental ending balance reduction) was appropriated to ODE, OEIB, Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC), and the Arts Commission for the Strategic Investments authorized by HB 3232 (2013 Session). All but the \$2 million allocated for staffing and related costs should be distributed to school districts and other providers. Another \$45 million total funds was made available for the Network for Quality Teaching authorized by HB 3233 (2013 Session) funded with \$33 million from the State School Fund and another \$12 million resulting from an increased distribution from the Common School Fund. Almost all of these funds will be distributed except \$3.7 million for ODE staff and related costs.

The report outlines a relatively aggressive schedule for distributing this funding in three rounds with all funding to be awarded by April or May 2014. Funds have been distributed for those programs already existing or where it was important to get distributed early in the current school year. These include Strategic Initiative programs like or relating to Response to Intervention for Struggling

Readers, student mentoring, and Eastern Promise. Funding already distributed for the Network includes teacher mentoring, collaboration grants, educator effectiveness, common core implementation, programs designed to close the achievement gap, and educator preparation programs. Details on individual programs, including who has received funds to date, are provided in the report.

ODE and OEIB have not identified any statutory changes to the language of HB 3232 or HB 3233 at this time, but did adjust some of the “practices” used in distribution of the funding. These include: (1) adjusting timelines so districts and others had sufficient time to apply; (2) recognizing the needs of smaller districts including providing funding to Education Service Districts (ESDs) to assist with grant writing; and (3) changing and increasing communications to entities applying for grants and other stakeholders.

The budget report for the primary funding bill for ODE (SB 5518) included language which allowed for limited transfer of funding between programs from the original distribution intended by the Legislature. At this point there has been no transfer of funding between programs. The report does describe at least one instance where programs and funding were combined. This example applied to the Network programs dealing with Common Core State Standards and Educator Effectiveness.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.