

Hi,

I'm pleading for your support. Please budget a minimum of \$7.5 billion in the 2015-2017 biennium for K-12 education. We currently stand at \$7.325 billion and with this number the district is projecting that we would be approximately \$3 million short in the 2015-2016 school year alone.

Put another way, if the state doesn't fund K-12 at a \$7.5 level or higher, we're looking at another round of cuts.

In 2003-05, schools received 45% of the state budget. During the current biennium, that number has declined to 39%. The Co-Chairs' budget would drive K-12's percentage even lower

- Co-Chairs' budget provides an average of about \$85 per student less for next year than districts are receiving this year
- Legislature promised to fund implementation of full-day kindergarten beginning in 2015-16. But the Co-Chairs' budget does not fund full-day kindergarten. Instead, it forces districts to choose between implementing full-day kindergarten or maintaining class sizes and programs for students in grades 1-12
- The Co-Chairs' budget falls \$300 million short of what most districts need to maintain current class sizes and programs and add full-day kindergarten.
- The Co-Chairs' budget would force many districts to cut school days
- A State School Fund of at least \$7.5 billion allows most districts to maintain current class sizes, and \$7.875 billion is needed to begin to make progress toward the national average

Thank You!

Margaret Cobb
Third Grade Teacher
Tom McCall Elementary
Redmond, Oregon