

Office of the Deputy Superintendent

255 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97310

Voice: 503-947-5600

Fax: 503-378-5156

HB 2405: State School Fund Donations

Senate Committee on Education

April 23, 2015

Good morning Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee. For the record, I am Jan McComb speaking on behalf of the Oregon Education Department. I am here today to speak in favor of HB 2405. HB 2405 will allow the department to accept donations to the State School Fund.

Background

The State School Fund consists primarily of the General Fund and lottery funds the Legislature appropriates each biennium to fund kindergarten through grade 12 education. The Oregon Department of Education combines other school revenue, such as local property taxes, with state dollars and distributes the total to Oregon's 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts according to the equalization formula laid out in statute. For the 2013-15 biennium, the Legislature appropriated \$6.65 billion to the State School Fund.

LOCAL REVENUES

Property taxes
Common School Fund
County School Fund
Federal forest revenue
County trust forest revenues
ESD shared revenues
Supplantable federal funds
Payments in-lieu of property taxes
Local option taxes above limit

Issue

Occasionally, the department receives donations to the State School Fund from individuals. There is not clear legal authority in the statute for the department to accept those funds.

Legislation

HB 2405 is a technical fix that would clarify the Oregon Department of Education may accept donations to the State School Fund.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the department.