

I am Matt Utterback, Superintendent of the 17,000-student North Clackamas School District. I am currently in my 28th year of serving students in North Clackamas - the last five as superintendent. Two weeks ago I was given the honor of serving as the 2017 National Superintendent of the Year.

I am testifying today to share concerns I have with the level of public school funding being discussed in both the Governor's and Co-Chairs' budgets. Either budget level would have a devastating impact on our ability to meet state and district educational goals.

An educational funding level of between the Governor's \$8.02 billion and the Co-Chairs \$7.8 billion would require North Clackamas Schools to make between **\$13 - \$17 million in reductions** to avoid deficit spending. These reductions would impact all students - especially our most vulnerable student learners by increasing class sizes, shortening the school year, reducing or eliminating intervention programs, and reducing educational options that support the education of the whole child. Consequences of this funding level could include:

- **Cutting teachers equivalent to 130- 170 teaching positions** resulting in escalating class sizes of 38 students per class at the secondary level, or
- **Cutting 25-32 instructional days** which reduces employees' salaries and valuable student instructional time, or
- A combination of the above and other reductions, such as the elimination of curriculum adoptions that are planned to replace learning materials that are over 17 years old, and eliminating or reducing elective programs

Any funding level short of **\$8.4 billion** will result in cuts to services and programs in our school district. At a time when Oregon's economy is strong and growing and support for public education is as strong as ever, we must do better as a state. As our elected representatives, I am looking to you to lead us out of this funding crisis. I stand ready to join in support of any budget plan you can devise to save the educational services outlined in my comments.

There is no greater service a state can provide than an appropriately funded public education system. Our work is about saving student lives. When funded appropriately, public schools give each of our students the knowledge, skills, and abilities to assert themselves as a person in our society and claim their humanity – ideals that serve as the bedrock of our democracy.