



**CONFEDERATION OF OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**  
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## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: Co-Chairs Sen. Mark Hass and Rep. Phil Barnhart  
Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Reform**

**FROM: Craig Hawkins, Executive Director, and 43 Signatories**

**DATE: June 12, 2017**

**RE: COSA's support for HB 2830, the Revenue Reform and Stability Act of  
2017, as part of a legislative agreement to raise revenue and implement cost  
containment measures**

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It is now 27 years since K-12 education funding became the primary responsibility of the Legislature. COSA members have lost track of how many times we have sought a solution to produce long-term stability and adequacy for our school budgets.

We are here one more time asking for your help.

Three generations of Oregon students have been taught in an education system that has weathered recessions and lean times by raising class sizes, laying off teachers, reducing programs and electives and cutting school days. You all know the dismal numbers by now:

- Among the largest class sizes in the nation.
- One of the shortest school years in the country.
- Among the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation.

The currently proposed State School Fund level of \$8.2 billion, while better than initial proposals from the Governor and Co-Chairs, still means that many school districts across Oregon will again have to lay off staff, increase class sizes, and look at other budget cuts that will continue the boom and bust in our education funding that is directly related to the boom and bust in our state's economy. And our students will continue to bear the brunt of these gut-wrenching cuts in opportunities lost and lives unchanged.

We are writing you today in support of the Revenue Reform and Education Stability Act of 2017. It is time to reverse the trend of asking our schools and our students to do more with less yet again. It is time to chart a different path for our schools beginning now.

The 2017 Legislature has the opportunity to create a brighter future for Oregon's nearly 580,000 students and their families. It is time close the deal on a bipartisan agreement to raise revenue, implement cost containment measures and rein in cost drivers. This Legislature can come together and stabilize funding for our education system – the pieces are all laid out before you.

Please don't kick the can down the road one more time or we will all be back here in 2019, 2021 and beyond having the same conversation about funding and lamenting lackluster outcomes for our students. And meanwhile we will be one year closer to our fourth generation of students who are waiting for a bipartisan solution.

We know that time is short and emotions are high. And we appreciate the tough budget spot you find yourselves in. But please imagine an Oregon without a school funding crisis after every dip in the economic forecast – or, even, as today, in the midst of a robust economy. Imagine a school system where the investments you make reverse a 27-year slide into mediocrity, and worse.

Our members stand ready to help and support you in this urgent work.

Know that our citizens and our students await your decision.

Sincerely,



COSA Executive Director,  
and the following Signatories:

**Nicole Albisu, Superintendent**  
Ontario

**Gustavo Balderas, Superintendent**  
Eugene

**Andy Bellando, Superintendent**  
Silver Falls

**Rob Clark, Superintendent**  
Milton-Freewater

**Larry Didway, Superintendent**  
Oregon City

**Sean Gallagher, Superintendent**  
Brookings-Harbor

**Jim Golden, Superintendent**  
Albany

**Candy Armstrong, Superintendent**  
North Wasco

**Heather Beck, Superintendent**  
Lake Oswego

**Sam Breyer, Superintendent**  
Multnomah ESD

**Heather Cordie, Superintendent**  
Sherwood

**Darin Drill, Superintendent**  
Cascade

**Andy Gardner, Superintendent**  
North Santiam

**Dan Goldman**  
Hood River

**Karen Gray, Superintendent**  
Parkrose

**Todd Hamilton, Superintendent**  
Creswell

**Michelle Johnstone, Superintendent**  
Dallas

**Kym LeBlanc-Esparza**  
Newberg

**Bob McKean, Interim Superintendent**  
Portland

**Mark Mulvihill, Superintendent**  
Intermountain ESD

**Krista Parent, Superintendent**  
South Lane

**Sue Rieke-Smith, Superintendent**  
Springfield

**Maryalice Russell, Superintendent**  
McMinnville

**Randy Schild, Superintendent**  
Tillamook

**Curt Shelley, Superintendent**  
John Day

**Heidi Sipe, Superintendent**  
Umatilla

**Tim Sweeney, Superintendent**  
Coquille

**Matt Utterback, Superintendent**  
North Clackamas

**Mark Witty, Superintendent**  
Baker

**Don Grotting, Superintendent**  
Beaverton

**Paul Hillyer, Superintendent**  
Klamath Falls

**Kirk Kolb, Superintendent**  
Grants Pass

**Mike McIntosh, Superintendent**  
Redmond

**Fred Maiocco, Superintendent**  
Hermiston

**Chris Parra, Superintendent**  
Bethel

**Christy Perry, Superintendent**  
Salem-Keizer

**Kathleen Rodden-Nord, Superintendent**  
Junction City

**Teresa Sayre, Superintendent**  
Phoenix-Talent

**Jim Schlachter, Superintendent**  
Gresham-Barlow

**Brian Shumate, Superintendent**  
Medford

**Bob Stewart, Superintendent**  
Gladstone

**Greg Thede, Superintendent**  
Klamath County

**Tenneal Wetherell**  
South Coast ESD