

School officials push back on mandatory class size negotiations

Portland Tribune Feb. 22, 2017

Bill to mandate class size as contract issue is wrong solution to real problem: Editorial Agenda 2017

The Oregonian Feb. 24, 2017

Mandatory class size bargaining divides House Education Committee

OSBA News Feb. 24, 2017

## WHY THE CLASS-SIZE BILL DOESN'T ADD UP

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) is once again asking state legislators to support a bill (House Bill 4113) making class size a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.

**While class size is an important topic, HB 4113 is not the best solution.**

**Here's why it doesn't pencil out:**

- Already, Oregon can't afford to adequately pay for public schools. According to a nonpartisan analysis<sup>1</sup>, the state should have budgeted **\$1.8 billion more** for K-12 schools in 2017-19 than it actually did. **Legislators should be focusing their attention on revenue reform and containing costs, not adding to them.**
- States such as California and Florida have spent tens of billions of dollars reducing class sizes, yet have eased such restrictions after disappointing results. California now has the highest pupil/teacher ratio in the country. **Oregon should learn from other states: This costly bill offers little measurable impact on student achievement.**
- Forcing school boards to bargain on class size undermines local control and is bad policy. **Educators and legislators should instead focus attention on providing funding to lengthen Oregon's school year, one of the shortest in the country.**
- Lowering Oregon class sizes by just three students would cost more than a half-billion dollars in the 2019-21 biennium, according to estimates from the Oregon Department of Education. That would require hiring roughly 2,600 teachers<sup>2</sup>, threatening financial ruin for our schools and our state. **The state simply cannot afford to spend money it doesn't have.**

## DO THE MATH THE CLASS-SIZE BILL DOESN'T ADD UP.

2600

NEW TEACHERS

=



\$575.6 MILLION  
IN NEW COSTS  
2019-21 BIENNIUM

THAT'S WHY WE URGE A  
**'NO' VOTE ON HB 4113.**

OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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