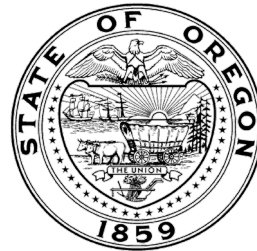# Briefing on Auditors' Draft K-12 Systemic Risk Report

Legislative Briefing

Presenters:
Secretary of State Shemia Fagan
Andrew Love, Scott Learn, and Krystine McCants

Oregon Audits Division

Overview

➢ The report draws on six performance audits of K-12 education since 2016 and four follow-up reports on recommendations included in the audits.

➢ It uses internal control principles for leaders to identify five systemic risks that could undermine K-12 system improvement as the state implements the 2019 Student Success Act.

➢ It is addressed to state leaders: the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education.

➢ Each of the five risk sections ends with Suggested Leadership Actions to address the risk.

Risk 1: Performance Monitoring & Support

- **Summary: Work with ODE to ensure the agency monitors district performance and provides strong support when needed.** (Control: Monitor performance)

- Key suggested actions: (with legislative role)
  - Closely track ODE's performance monitoring of grants and work with districts. Clarify statutes when ODE's responsibility is weak or unclear and ensure adequate staff for monitoring.

  - Adopt statutes that hold public online schools to stronger standards, particularly statewide and regional online charter schools.

  - Provide funding and authority for ODE to collect data from districts on course grades and specific credits attained by middle and high school students.

Risk 2: Transparency on Results and Challenges

- **Summary: Require thorough, transparent reporting of school improvement results and challenges.** (Controls: ID & address risks; report quality info.)

- Key suggested actions: (with legislative role)
  - Require and support thorough ODE reporting of both school improvement progress and challenges, including concerns raised by districts and stakeholders.

  - Ensure results and challenges are clearly reported and discussed in the Legislature for key ODE programs, such as the Student Success Act, Measure 98, Title I, and for additional grants aimed at improving equity.

Risk 3: Spending Scrutiny & Guidance

- **Summary: Support ODE in providing more analysis of school district spending to help districts focus spending on student support and offset rising costs.** (Control: Monitor spending)

- Key suggested actions: (with legislative role)
  - Monitor and support ODE's spending analysis and development of tools to help districts evaluate their spending.
  - Monitor the depth and effectiveness of ODE's interaction with school districts on spending.

Risk 4: Clear, Enforceable District Standards

- **Summary: Improve Division 22 standards to increase accountability for state funds and help increase student success**. (Control: Set standards for operations)

- Key suggested actions: (with legislative role)
  - Monitor and support improvements in Division 22 standards and in ODE's assurance and support efforts under the standards.

  - Provide more staff if necessary to build a robust assurance effort that supports districts and meaningfully monitors their compliance with the standards.

Risk 5: Governance & Funding Stability

- **Summary: A large number of separate programs, unrealistic timelines, and frequent changes in funding priorities and leadership can undermine reform efforts**. (Control: Quality Governance & Oversight)

- Key suggested actions: (with legislative role)
  - Support ODE in developing a comprehensive road map of programs to improve K-12 education and align reform efforts, focused particularly on programs that support vulnerable students.

  - Use the road map to ensure new K-12 initiatives and requirements are aligned with existing ODE school improvement work to reduce duplication and administrative burdens for ODE and districts.

  - Require programs to have strong performance measurement plans and robust interim updates, then allow time for meaningful analysis of results.

QUESTIONS?