



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

**DATE:** March 8, 2021

**TO:** Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

**FROM:** Colt Gill, Director

**RE:** Ways and Means Follow Up Response - March 3, 2021

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) presented its agency overview and a portion of its agency Operations budget overview on March 3, 2021 to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Education Subcommittee. During the presentation, members of the committee asked two questions that required clarification and follow-up. The questions and answers are provided below.

- 1. How does the agency define chronic absenteeism? Director Gill provided response, however he wanted to follow back with a confirmation of the exact language used. (Representative Reschke)**

***ODE's Response:*** ODE uses the definition of chronic absenteeism that follows what experts in the field use as missing 10 percent or more of school days and severe chronic absenteeism as missing 20 percent or more of school days, including excused, unexcused and discipline-related absences (Ehrlich, Gwynne, Pareja, Allensworth, Moore, Jagesic, & Sorice, 2014; Buehler, Tapogna & Chang, 2012; Connolly & Olson, 2004). This definition is used at the National Technical Assistance Center to support attendance intervention, the state and national initiative, Attendance Works and will be used with subsequent national data collection through the Office of Civil Rights. For years, the issue of chronic absenteeism was not widely understood as most states, districts and schools were not measuring it. Instead, many schools use the metric of "Average Daily Attendance" which can greatly mask the number of students who are chronically absent. For example, a school may have a daily attendance rate of 92 percent or higher while one in four students at the school is chronically absent. This comes from our website: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Chronic-Absenteeism.aspx>

**2. Please provide a detail of the Services and Supplies Budget (in particular cost related to Assessment). (Senator Frederick)**

**ODE Response:**

ODE’s 2021-23 Current Service Level Budget for Services and Supplies and Capital Outlay (S&S/CO) is \$136,171,199. The statewide student assessment cost represents approximately 16% of this budget at \$21.4 million. This represents the cost of the contracts to administer the assessments, as well as membership fees to access student assessment content. The largest portion of the S&S/CO budget is Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and School Supports at 26%. The majority of this budget category is within the Office of Education Innovation and Improvement for school district coaching contracts as required within the Student Success Act. The next highest portion is Agency Program Related Cost which encompasses costs related to DMV fingerprinting, ELD criminal background checks, Board and Council Related Cost, Advisory Boards, strategic planning and legislatively required reports, and other costs specific to programs or initiatives. Outside of assessment, the next highest category is 15% for statewide government services charges and Attorney General cost charged by other state agencies. The remaining 22% of the S&S/CO Budget is for employee related costs, information technology costs, and facility rent and maintenance, as well as a dedicated expense for USDA commodities, and the Oregon Online Learning statutory transfer from the State School Fund.

