

It is very crucial that the State of Oregon keep up with K-12 Funding! While the Federal Cares Act money was a lifeline, it IS NOT permanent funding, and the State cannot treat it as permanent funding. The \$9.1B to K-12 funding is not acceptable. This is actually LESS funding that we received last year when the 49-51 split is taken into effect. The State must fund K-12 Schools at a minimum \$9.6B in the upcoming biennium and must fund K-12 Schools at least \$10.2B the biennium after. Even taking into consideration SIA funding, if not for the Federal Covid Relief funds, schools across the state would have faced draconian cuts.

The true problem with K-12 funding is that funds put towards education are less of the percentage of total budget and General Fund Budget every year! Every budget cycle we hear education is top priority, but every time the budget comes out the numbers tell a different story. In the 2003-2005 biennium, the percent of general fund budget and lottery funds that funded K-12 was 45.1%. In the 2019-2021 budget it was 34.9%! The proposed 2021-2023 budget has the allocation at about 35%, unchanged from 2019-2021. Since 2009, general fund and lottery funds collectively have raised every year, yet the percentage of those funds going to K-12 education have dropped. Just as troublesome is the percent of K-12 allocations to total budget. In 2007-2009, 12.9% of total budget went to K-12 education. The proposed 2021-2023 budget is 9%!

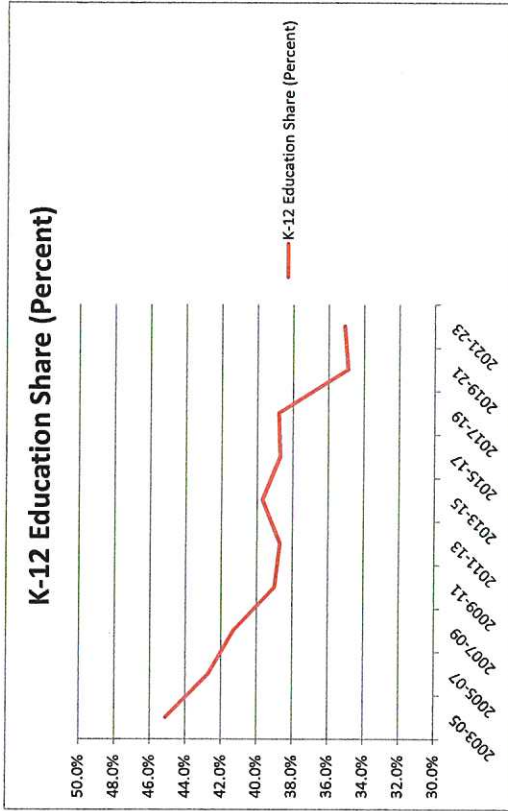
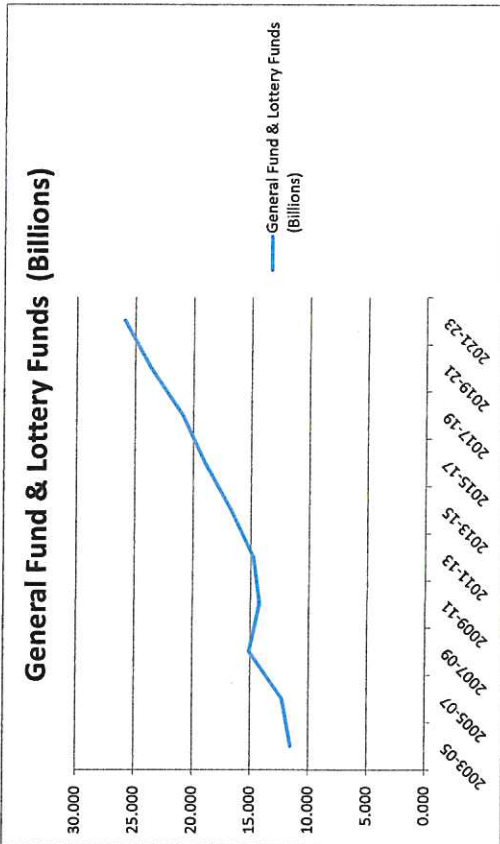
The adopted budget total funds in the 19-21 biennium was \$85.80 billion. The current proposed for the 21-23 biennium is \$100.197 billion, about a 16.7% increase in spending. The current proposed budget for the 21-23 biennium for K-12 State School Fund of \$9.1 billion, a 1% increase from the 19-21 biennium!

This is not okay. This is not making education a priority. This is not helping equity in education. This will make the school year shorter. This will make class sizes larger. This will make the equity gap wider. Please take education seriously and fund at an acceptable level!

Sources: <https://digital.osl.state.or.us/islandora/object/osl%3A27238>

https://www.oregon.gov/das/Financial/Documents/2021-23_gb.pdf

Biennium	K-12 Education Share (Percent)	General Fund & Lottery Funds (Billions)
2003-05	45.1%	11.496
2005-07	42.7%	12.272
2007-09	41.3%	15.119
2009-11	39.0%	14.234
2011-13	38.7%	14.784
2013-15	39.7%	16.753
2015-17	38.7%	19.033
2017-19	38.8%	20.927
2019-21	34.9%	23.669
2021-23	35.1%	25.908



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