

April 14, 2021

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Please review the following considerations of the current proposed \$9.1 Billion SSF budget on the Tigard-Tualatin School District:

- This level of funding results in a TTSD operating deficit of \$9 million equal to the cost of 15 school days or 82 licensed teachers.
- TTSD's current service level of operations in the General Fund requires funding of \$10 billion in the 2021-2023 biennium.
- This inadequate level of funding will set back K-12 education two biennia from the standpoint of meeting the day-to-day needs for school operations.
- SIA funds are intended to meet the ongoing needs of marginalized students in the form of supplemental services leading to their success and the District has no intention of using these funds to backfill the inadequate SSF allocation intended to cover General Fund operations.
- ESSER funds, although significant, are one-time dollars allocated by the federal government as emergency relief in response to the pandemic and are not designed to cover the District's current service level needs. The SSF is our ongoing revenue source intended to cover our operating expenditures, not one-time resources such as ESSER.
- If the expectation is to use one-time funds to fill General Fund funding gaps in 2021-2023, when these funds go away in two years, K-12 funding in Oregon will be even further behind meeting current service levels going into the 2023-2025 biennium.
- TTSD is working with intention and focus to align our allocation of resources with the District's strategic priorities. An inadequate SSF level will not only make it difficult to maintain current services for students but will also create challenges with expanding our early learning program and removing barriers for our marginalized students attempting to access extracurricular activities.

I ask you to reconsider the current budget appropriation. Will the Legislature consider the use of State reserves to supplement funding for critical programs such as K-12 education? I encourage you to deploy the use of excess reserves to help maintain school days and retain our skilled teaching staff.

Sincerely,

Sharon Fox
TTSD Board Director

