

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 6: Department of Education School Infrastructure

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Education Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative McLain

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve, retroactively, a request from the Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Education for a \$5 million dollar grant to help local school districts leverage available federal, state, and local resources to improve school infrastructure.

The “Supporting America’s School Infrastructure” grant program provides funds to build the capacity in state education agencies to support high-need local school districts to identify, finance, and complete public school infrastructure projects. ODE will use the grant funds, if awarded, to complete its Statewide School Facility Assessment. This project is assessing the condition of all 4,950 school facilities in Oregon, and will result in a statewide database of the condition of school facilities, which will provide data to state and local decision makers to prioritize the most-needed school infrastructure projects. This is a five-year grant with no state match requirement. Grant award announcements are expected in October of 2023. If awarded, ODE will return to the Legislature to request Federal Funds expenditure limitation to spend the grant award.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.