

## ANALYSIS

### Item 5: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Educator Development Programs

---

**Analyst:** Kim To

**Request:** Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$6,100,000 for the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program and grants to public universities to implement Oregon’s educator equity plan.

**Analysis:** The Student Success Act requires education stakeholders in Oregon, including the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to increase educator diversity and retention by developing a comprehensive, statewide approach aimed at redefining teacher preparation, learning, and retention to achieve a preK-12 educator workforce that more closely mirrors the demographics of the students in Oregon’s schools.

The Legislature and the Educator Advancement Council created the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP) in 2017 to reduce financial barriers for racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse educator candidates pursuing an education degree at an in-state educator preparation program. OTSP provides scholarships to students who are undergraduates in the final two years of a teaching program or graduate students enrolled in a Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) approved educator program. Awards may be used for education expenses such as tuition, books, gas money to support travel to teaching practicum location, test prep materials, and living costs. Eligible candidates include students studying to become licensed Speech Pathologists, Counselors, Psychologists, and other behavioral health professions.

In addition, HECC awards grants to public universities to support efforts that align with strategies in the HECC approved Educator Equity Plan in HB 3375 (2015) which details recruitment, preparation, and retention of diverse educators in implementation of state educator equity goals. Efforts include organizing educator preparation, mentoring and coaching programs, as well as, providing educator scholarships.

Funding for these two programs comes from the Student Success Fund - Statewide Education Initiatives Account through an intergovernmental agreement with ODE to implement section 48 of the Student Success Act.

HECC is in the process of drafting agreements with ODE to administer these two programs and estimates that for the 2023-25 biennium, the agency will need \$5 million in Other Funds limitation for OTSP and \$1.1 million Other Funds limitation to provide grant funds to various universities for initiatives and programs to increase educator diversity and retention.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$6,100,000 in the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for two educator development programs.

5  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
Chase

---

**Request:** Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$6,100,000 for the Oregon Teacher Scholarship Program and public university educator preparation programs.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request during the 2024 Legislative Session.

**Discussion:** The Statewide Education Initiatives Account (SEIA) receives money from the Student Success Fund to pay for the creation of new programs, or expansion of existing programs, aimed at improving educational opportunities for Oregon students. This includes a Diversifying Educator Workforce Program.

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 342.447 requires each public educator preparation program to prepare a plan with specific goals, strategies, and deadlines for the recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation of diverse educators to accomplish the goal of aligning the percentage of diverse educators employed by a school and/or district with the diversity of students in the school and/or district. The requirements of ORS 342.447 are administered through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

As Oregon's student population becomes more ethnically and linguistically diverse, the educator workforce needs to better reflect the demographics of the students in the schools and/or districts. As such, the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP) was established to address financial barriers posing challenges for racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse candidates pursuing a teaching license.

During the 2021-23 biennium, HECC entered into two intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), which provided SEIA funding to 1) administer the OTSP, and 2) provide grant funding to the public universities with educator preparation programs.

HECC and ODE have been working to renew the IGAs for the 2023-25 biennium to continue providing OTSP scholarships and funding to the public universities; however, the applicable Other Funds expenditure limitation was not built into HECC's 2023-25 Legislatively Adopted Budget.

The Other Funds expenditure limitation increase of \$6.1 million will enable HECC to continue to support OTSP and provide funding to the public universities with educator preparation programs.

**Legal Reference:** Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 454, section 8(1), Oregon Laws 2023, for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission programs and related grants, by \$6,100,000 for the 2023-25 biennium.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, Oregon 97302

[www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

December 4, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) respectfully requests an increase of \$6,100,000 in Other Fund expenditure limitation authority to support the Oregon Teacher Scholarship Program (OTSP) and provide funding to the six public universities with educator preparation programs. In the 21-23 biennium, HECC entered into two Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to; administer the OTSP which provides scholarships to diverse teacher candidates attending Oregon private and public universities in order to achieve a preK-12 educator workforce that more closely mirrors the demographics of the students in Oregon's schools, and to provide grant funding to the six public universities with educator preparation programs to fulfill the requirements of ORS 342.447. Both of these agreements provided funds from ODE to HECC from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account for the 21-23 biennium only and expenditure limitation authority was not built into the 23-25 budgets.

### **Agency Action**

The HECC and ODE have been working to renew the IGAs for the 23-25 biennium to continue providing OTSP scholarships and funding to the six universities for planning for recruitment, admission, retention, and graduation of diverse educators.

### **Action Requested**

The HECC requests the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means increase Other Funds expenditure limitation authority by \$6,100,000 in HECC programs and operations to continue to be able to distribute these funds.

### **Legislation Affected**

This would revise HB 5025 section 8(1), increasing the total by \$6,100,000.

Sincerely,

Ramona Rodamaker, Deputy Executive Director  
for Ben Cannon, Executive Director  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission