

ANALYSIS

Item 7: Department of Education Director of School Facilities

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$448,075 and establish one permanent Education Program Manager 3 position (1.00 FTE) to oversee the Office of School Facilities.

Analysis: Over the past several biennia, the Department of Education has implemented new programs to help local school districts with various aspects of managing, maintaining, and improving their buildings. Through the Office of School Facilities, school districts can apply for technical assistance grants, capital improvement matching grants, and broadband connectivity grants. The Office is implementing the School Safety and Emergency Management program approved during the 2023 legislative session, and is undertaking a statewide school facilities assessment that will provide districts with no-cost facility condition assessments and the state with an accessible record of all Oregon public school facilities and their condition. The Office of School Facilities also has implemented several large-dollar one-time programs approved by the Legislature, including summer learning programs in 2021 and 2022 totaling \$250 million and educator recruitment, retention, and training reimbursement grant programs in 2022 and 2023 totaling \$97.7 million.

As new programs and projects have been added over time, the School Facilities program staff within ODE's Office of Finance and Technology has grown past both the agency's approved maximum supervisory ratio of one to nine and its actual supervisory ratio of one to ten. An additional management position is required for both day-to-day oversight and long-term strategic direction of the office, and to administer ongoing and legislatively approved one-time programs. The cost of this position can be absorbed within the Department's existing budget in the current biennium, and will be paid for through the Department's administrative indirect cost pool in future biennia.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend authorizing the establishment of one permanent position (1.00 FTE) for the Department of Education in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session to oversee the Office of School Facilities.

Oregon Department of Education
Crawford

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$448,075 and establish one permanent, full-time position (1.00 FTE) to oversee school facilities programs.

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2024 Legislative Session.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Education has several programs supporting Oregon schools' facility needs. These include the Oregon School Capital Improvement Match program, Technical Assistance Program, School Safety and Emergency Management, Statewide Facilities Assessment Database, and Connecting Oregon Schools Fund.

These programs are often interconnected and mutually supporting. For example, the Technical Assistance Program supports a school district's efforts to complete documents related to capital planning and deferred maintenance. These documents are required prior to submitting for matching grants under the Oregon School Capital Improvement Match program to districts whose voters pass a local general obligation bond.

However this interconnected nature of school facilities planning requires significant coordination, and with ageing school facilities there is an increasing need in the state. The position overseeing this work is currently classified as a Program Analyst 4, but due to workload and work complexity, the agency is seeking to establish an additional permanent position classified as an Education Program Manager 3. This position would be funded with Other Funds from federal indirect revenues.

Legislation Affected: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 449, section 6(2), Oregon Laws 2023, for the Department of Education, Operations, by \$448,075 for the 2023-25 biennium.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Dr. Charlene Williams
Director of the Department of Education

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

This request is to permanently fund a Director of the School Facilities section of Oregon Department of Education (ODE) as an Education Program Manager 3.

Agency Action

This position is currently filled as an LD and funded with savings from a PA4 on this team, however, due to the workload, this position is needed in addition to the PA4 that primarily funds it. This role is critical to the functionality of the School of Facilities section of ODE. This position oversees school facilities programs and additional one-time Legislative efforts funding opportunities for Oregon's education system including, Oregon School Capital Improvement Match program (OSCIM), Technical Assistance Program (TAP), School Safety and Emergency Management (SSEM), State-wide Facilities Assessment Database, Connecting Oregon Schools Fund (COSF) and Summer Learning Grants.

Action Requested

ODE is asking for position authority (1.0 position, 1.0 FTE) and other funds limitation in the amount of \$448,075. ODE is proposing that this position be funded with other funds from federal indirect revenues. The classification is an Education Program Manager 3 (MMS 7223 AP).

Legislation Affected

This action, if approved, would revise HB 5014 (2023 laws), chapter 449, and section 6, subsection (2).



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Dr. Charlene Williams
Director of the Department of Education

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlene Williams (she/her)

Agency Director

Oregon Department of Education

charlene.williams@ode.oregon.gov | www.oregon.gov/ode