



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of the Executive Director

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Salem, Oregon 97302

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

April 4, 2023

Co-Chair, Senator Lew Frederick  
Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the **April 4, 2023** Higher Education Coordinating Commission presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

On slide 58, Representative Ruiz asked about Oregon's national ranking over time in terms of public higher education appropriations per full-time student equivalent (FTE). This data comes from the State Higher Education Finance Survey (SHEF) published by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO). [Table 3.2 in the SHEF](#) summarizes the public higher education appropriations per FTE for all states including a national average. This includes funding for institutional support as well as financial aid. Over time, the funding per FTE in Oregon has fluctuated with Oregon declining to 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation during the great recession. Recent progress has been made with Oregon now ranking 32<sup>nd</sup> as of FY2022. Funding in Oregon has consistently trailed the national average by 19% to 41% since 1980. More detail can be found in Appendix A.

With apologies, our submitted presentation omitted slide 68, detailing key policy option packages included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. That slide is included as Appendix B, and we have resubmitted the complete deck to the Committee.

On slide 77, Representative McLain asked for more information on the role of HECC and private career schools. Private career schools are non-degree granting entities, often very small businesses, offering training designed to qualify students to take certain state licensing exams or qualify for other specific careers not requiring a degree. The HECC Private Career School Unit licenses these entities. HECC licensure triggers financial stability review, oversight of minimum academic policies, and a review of instructors. Licensure provides consumer protections to students, particularly in the event of a school closure. This unit is funded by fees charged to schools when they apply for licensure. Recently this office saw an influx of new school applicants with the passage of Ballot Measure 109 and the need to train individuals seeking OHA licensure as psilocybin facilitators. HECC's role was to license the schools after an examination of their structure and policies. OHA is responsible for approving the curriculum.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at [kyle.thomas@state.or.us](mailto:kyle.thomas@state.or.us) or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Cannon".

Ben Cannon  
Executive Director

**Appendix A: Public Higher Education Appropriations per FTE Over Time**

	<b>FY1980</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>
Oregon National Ranking	44	43	47	46	37	32
Oregon Funding per FTE	\$7,729	\$8,348	\$4,484	\$5,579	\$7,522	\$8,068
US Average Funding per FTE	\$9,572	\$10,938	\$7,610	\$8,686	\$9,762	\$10,229
Variance, Oregon to US Average	(19%)	(24%)	(41%)	(36%)	(23%)	(21%)

**Notes:** Data from State Higher Education Finance Survey (SHEF) published by SHEEO. Table 3.2. Includes embargoed data for FY2022. Funding amounts are inflation adjusted and expressed in constant dollars. Funding includes institutional support and financial aid appropriations.

## HECC Policy Option Packages in GRB

