

From the desk of Representative Tracy Cramer  
Tracy Cramer

## Oregon bill would provide more money for education than governor's proposed budget

by Emily Girsch, KATU Staff | Thu, May 18th 2023, 6:12 PM PDT

PORTLAND, Ore. — The state's budget is due in a matter of weeks, and some Oregon lawmakers are scrambling to get more money for education.

A House Bill introduced Thursday requests \$10.4 billion for the State Education Fund. The governor's budget proposal includes \$9.9 billion. Current operations cost \$10.3 billion.

**Last week**, we heard from several school districts calling on the Legislature to increase funding for schools.

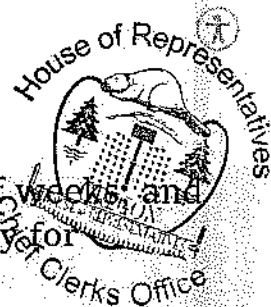
Both Portland Public Schools and Beaverton Public Schools have each proposed cutting 90 staff positions due to declining enrollment and loss of pandemic funding. Sixty-four positions have already been eliminated in Tigard-Tualatin.

**We've also heard** from educators who worry that larger class sizes will negatively affect already low math and reading levels made worse by the pandemic.

"Our schools are not getting the funding that they need and deserve, and we need to be the voice of that," said Rep. Tracy Cramer, R-Keizer.

Cramer is the sponsor of **House Bill 3627**. It proposes taking money from the state's general fund and adding it to the State School Fund to come up with \$10.4 billion.

The bill mirrors a proposed amendment to **House Bill 5015** that was voted down by Democrats a week ago.



Cramer is hopeful that with the state's May revenue forecast released **Wednesday** showing more money available, this bill will advance.

"This should really be at the forefront of our priorities as legislators," she said.

"These are our kids, this is our future, this is our workforce. This is our everything. This is our foundation. I see it as a huge detriment as far as keeping the budget at what it currently is, and I do think that there are resources to move it forward."

KATU News asked Kotek's office for her response to this proposed legislation, but a spokesperson said the governor's office does not generally comment on pending legislation.

The governor did, however, tweet this Thursday:

House Bill 3627 will next be voted on in a subcommittee.

The state budget is due at the end of June.