

Submitter: Benjamin Iverson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

As an Oregon educator, I want to urge you to stand with Oregon students and make real investments in our neighborhood K-12 public schools and our community colleges. It's never been more important for our leaders to prioritize investments, and protect opportunities for as many Oregonians as possible. One of those opportunities is Career Technical Education. Our school has an Engineering/Manufacturing Tech pathway. Students use industry tools (CNC Plasma and Router Tables, Pneumatic presses, welding equipment, etc...) to build skis, snowboard, skateboard, and bikes. We are focusing on preparing students with skills related to their interests and our local economy. The program is expensive to operate, we are talking like \$200-\$300 hundred per student for projects and more for consumables, and operating costs of equipment. We try and fundraise through the selling of products but 1. that takes time out of my day or worse even after work hours and 2. doesn't really make the costs of overhead for the effort. How can we provide quality education, specifically CTE, if the funding is not there to support programs. We can get creative, but who wants to buy a snowboard with an old bedsheet for a top graphic? I urge you to start funding education. With the federal uncertainty funding schools it is important Oregon sets a frame work to support the amazing work happening in schools across the district. On another note class size and case load should be part of bargaining. As schools scrape by to operate many educators have classes over 30 and some even 40. If there is a 50min class period, that means a 10min lesson and the teacher can give 1min per student per class. Can you help each constituent in 1min or less? In one of my classes, Intro to Woodshop, the goal is to train kids on proper tool safety, operations, and use. When I have 33 students lined up for two saws that is a ton of idle time for the to screw around and what happens when students start screwing around is someone gets hurt. In a shop hurt could be a lifetime injury. Another scenario, just happened the last week. I have students working on a variety of things to avoid the earlier situation, well when that happens, I am pulled to help in all parts of a room and my focus for shop safety becomes more difficult from the far reaches of the shop. A student was using a table saw and not following proper protocol and I was not near enough to make the correction at that moment (helping other students). Luckily we have Saw Stop technology and he only suffered a minor scratch. Too many kids creates safety concerns. Not enough money and we cannot afford the tools that mitigate hazards. Both are important to quality education.