

My name is Monica Saavedra, and I am a Wilsonville resident who works at Boones Ferry Primary. I am very concerned that the Governor's K-12 Budget will have a negative impact on your constituents. The governor's proposed budget is not keeping up with cost of living, PERS costs, or health insurance costs. We need to provide robust funding for education in Oregon.

The Governor's budget increase is approximately 11%, while economic costs come to closer to 15%. The spike in PERS rates adds further complications. As a result, our district and those across the state will shortly be cutting back services further.

In our district, we had 30 primary, 11 middle school, and 17 high school teachers receive a RIF letter in March. My school had a loss of 12 staff members including myself. This is a huge loss to our students, schools, families, and community. It is also happening in other Oregon school districts such as Portland, Lake Oswego, and other nearby cities.

K-12 funding needs to be significantly higher to keep up with costs, and to avoid oversized classrooms which directly affect student engagement and their learning environment.

I appreciate your time with listening to my concern and am happy to answer any questions you have about how this will impact my students. I have signed up for your newsletter and hope to read about how you can support schools in our community and our state.

Sincerely,

Monica Saavedra