



Strong public education should open the doors of opportunity for all students — whether, black, brown, or white. But right now in Oregon, that’s not happening.

Because out-of-state corporations and moneyed special interests pay some of the lowest taxes in the country and have stalled action on meaningful investment for decades, Oregon classrooms are among the most crowded in the nation, our graduation rates are among the lowest, and our mental health resources and vital programs such as vocational training, arts, language, and music have been slashed.

This pattern isn’t new — Oregon has been asking students and educators to do even more with even less for decades now. Due to historical racism and ongoing structural barriers, black and brown students, indigenous students, LGBTQ+ students, low-income students, and students with disabilities suffer the most when Oregon continues to underfund our education.

If we fully fund our education, we can begin to address those inequities and give all students the tools they need to succeed in today’s economy. The Invest in Oregon table, a group of dozens of progressive advocacy organizations, is committed to supporting the legislative work to pass game-changing investments in our education. Collectively, we have outlined principles for both raising and investing new revenue in our education:



PRINCIPLES AROUND RAISING NEW REVENUE:

Progressivity: Tax policies should ensure Oregonians with more income and wealth contribute a larger share of their resources to support the common good than those with less.

Adequacy: Tax and revenue policies must raise enough revenue to fund the public structures that create opportunity for all Oregonians.

Equity: As in many other areas of public policy, tax policy has at times fostered inequitable outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and gender. New policies should remove these barriers and inequities and advance Oregonians’ economic opportunity.

PRINCIPLES AROUND INVESTING NEW REVENUE:

Progressivity: Revenue investments should go to serve those with lower incomes.

Equity: Use a racial equity lens when evaluating what programs to prioritize and fund. This includes ensuring services are culturally appropriate and responsive.

Adequacy and Sustainability: Investments are meaningful, sustainable and on-going. Avoid one-time funding.

Transparency and Accountability: Investments are transparent and information about the investments are accessible to all Oregonians and at all levels. Investments go to the intended program and student population and show progress.