



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

**DATE:** April 6, 2021

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

**FROM:** Colt Gill, Director

**RE:** Ways and Means Follow Up Response – April 5, 2021

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) presented its Grant-In-Aid Budget related to Capital Financing on April 5, 2021 to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Education Subcommittee. During the presentation, members of the committee asked a question that required clarification and follow-up. The question and answer is provided below.

**1. Can you provide information on what projects were funded through the pilot programs that helped establish the Connecting Oregon School Fund (Senator Frederick)**

***ODE's Response:***

Over the last five years, the Legislature has taken two separate actions through the State Emergency Board to authorize General Fund for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish or improve internet connectivity for schools. ODE used this funding to provide matching grants to school districts to help leverage additional Federal Funds administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These grants enabled school districts to not only secure the majority of federal funding for critical infrastructure projects, but also create additional federal and state resources to address remaining project gaps.

In May 2016, the Emergency Board approved funding that resulted in \$199,571 of General Fund to help leverage an identical amount of Federal Funds to cover 93.48% of the funding gap for \$2,295,707 in project costs. This funding supported five school districts in which two received full funding for their project cost. Each of the five projects are listed in the table below:

School District	Project Cost	FCC Discount	FCC Funds	Original Funding Gap	State GIA Match	FCC Increase	Final Funding Gap
Lake ESD (Paisley SD)	\$1,419,500	70%	\$993,650	\$425,850	\$141,950	\$141,950	\$141,950
Columbia Gorge ESD (Sherman Co. SD)	\$223,481	77%	\$172,080	\$51,401	\$22,348	\$22,348	\$6,704
Columbia Gorge ESD (S. Wasco SD)	\$32,680	77%	\$25,164	\$7,516	\$3,268	\$3,268	\$980
Santiam Canyon SD	\$20,046	80%	\$16,037	\$4,009	\$2,005	\$2,005	\$0
Glendale SD	\$600,000	90%	\$540,000	\$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,295,707</b>		<b>\$1,746,931</b>	<b>\$548,776</b>	<b>\$199,571</b>	<b>\$199,571</b>	<b>\$149,635</b>

After the success of the initial pilot, the Legislature once again provided funding in September 2018 for \$338,687 in General Fund to help leverage additional Federal Funds in addressing project funding gaps. This investment resulted in \$5,660,574 of Internet connectivity projects for five school districts listed in the table below

School District	Project Cost	FCC Discount	FCC Funds	Original Funding Gap	State GIA Match	FCC Increase	Final Funding Gap
South Lane SD	\$1,068,167	80%	\$854,534	\$213,633	\$106,817	\$106,817	\$0
Columbia Gorge ESD - Dufur SD	\$438,426	90%	\$394,583	\$43,843	\$21,921	\$21,921	\$0
Imbler SD	\$45,000	80%	\$36,000	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Huntington SD	\$3,300,000	90%	\$2,970,000	\$330,000	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$0
Elgin SD	\$808,981	90%	\$728,083	\$80,898	\$40,449	\$40,449	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,660,574</b>		<b>\$4,983,200</b>	<b>\$677,374</b>	<b>\$338,687</b>	<b>\$338,687</b>	<b>\$0</b>

In total, the two pilots collectively resulted in a \$538,258 state investment that helped leveraged \$7,268,388 in Federal Funds to fund 98% of the \$7,956,281 project costs. Each of these projects resulted in improved internet connectivity for 10 rural or remote school districts in Oregon.