



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Colt Gill

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

SB 5505: Support for Oregon School for the Deaf and K-12 Projects **Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction** **April 9, 2021**

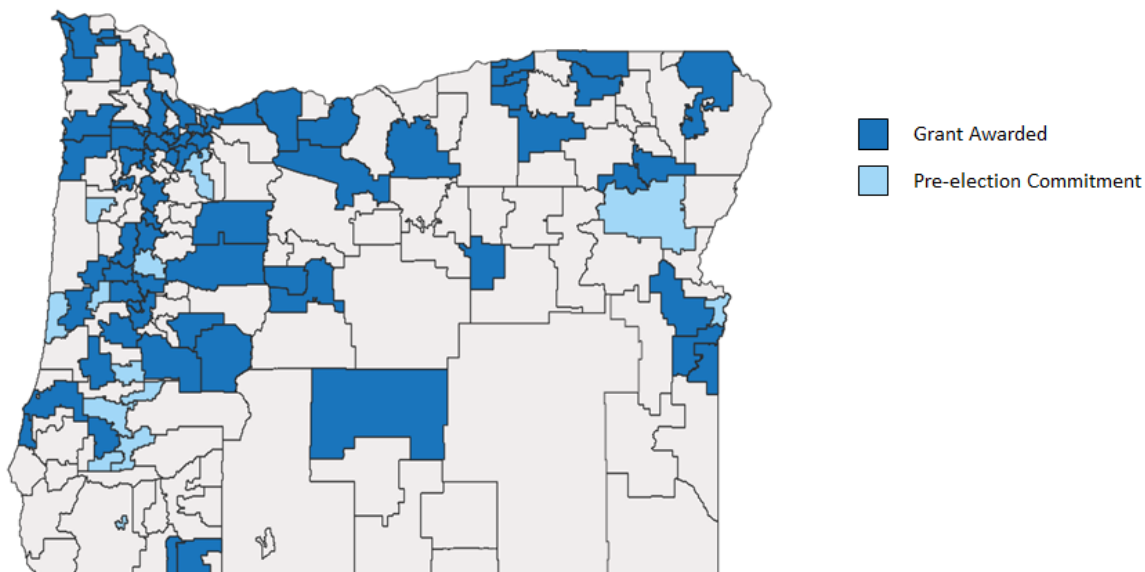
Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee, I am Rick Crager, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Information Technology for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the \$138 million in Article XI-P bonds for the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OSCIM) as well as \$5.5 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for the Oregon School for the Deaf (OSD).

OSCIM Program

The OSCIM Program has helped our state make significant strides in providing students and staff a safe, functional space to learn and educate. The program provides a matching grant to districts to encourage local community investment in school facilities.

Since the program's inception in 2015, it has provided \$345.5 million in matching grants and commitments to 78 districts. It has matched \$5.89 billion in general obligation bonds passed by local school districts. Please refer to the chart below to see more information about what communities have accessed these grants.

Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OSCIM)
GRANT RECIPIENTS BY DISTRICT



In 2013, the Task Force on School Capital Improvement Planning estimated that there was \$7.6 billion in deferred maintenance in school facilities across the state. This number has increased since then because districts have had to build new schools to address overcrowding and construction costs have increased. This program has helped address this pressing need by encouraging local communities to take action on school facilities and make the most of state-offered support. The return on investment is important to note, not only for schools, but for local communities as well; a result of the OSCIM Program, there has been over \$8 billion in estimated economic activity to the state.

We are requesting \$138 million in funding via Article XI-P bonds for the 2021-23 biennium to continue this important work and build on the progress we have made as a state.

Oregon School for the Deaf

The Oregon School for the Deaf has completed significant progress on necessary updates for their facilities, but there is still a backlog of maintenance that will need further investment to support the safety and comfort of our deaf or hard of hearing students and their educators.

The first issuance of GO bonds was for \$4.3 million, which funded four new roofs on the four main buildings on campus, restroom upgrades to make the restrooms at four of the buildings ADA accessible with additional gender neutral restrooms, and an ADA accessible locker room to serve the whole campus and any organizations that visit for sporting events at the gym.

The request for the 2021-23 biennium is \$5.5 million. This funding will enable OSD to continue upgrading restrooms at other buildings on campus, including the dorms, creating inclusive facilities by ensuring ADA compliance and providing for gender neutral options. Other major projects include replacing a fire alarm system that is well beyond its useful service date to keep kids safe in case of fire, as well as replacing windows across campus to increase building energy efficiency, reduce energy costs for OSD, and improve internal climate for staff and students.

There are also several outstanding needs identified for OSD. This includes lighting improvements to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs, and improve interior lighting, seismic upgrades, a campus wide security system, and communications system upgrades.

Both the OSCIM Program and the Oregon School for the Deaf serve an incredibly important purpose in our state and need appropriate investment to make sure our school facilities remain safe, inclusive, and comfortable for our students and staff. We thank you for your commitment to these two important programs, and we ask for your continued support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Crager

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Information Technology