



Chair Neron, members of the House Committee on Education,

The Oregon Education Association represents over 41,000 Oregonians from every community in the state; including K-12 teachers and education service professionals, and faculty and classified staff at most of Oregon's Community Colleges. The OEA supports HB 2257 and HB 3084.

Decades of under, or barely, funding education has left the school districts of the state with billions of dollars in deferred maintenance. As hoped, most districts have prioritized in-class instruction. However, after decades, this is catching up with districts, and the only option to fix these issues is through passing general obligation bonds. But for most districts, that isn't an option.

In the last four years, only 72 districts have attempted to pass a bond (36.5% of the state's 197 districts). Of those, only 46 of them passed. [[OSBA GOB Tracker](#)] The majority of districts do not even try to pass bonds, and the likelihood of success is so low. In these situations, the people who lose are our students.

Look at Roseburg as a prime example. Knowing that their infrastructure was borderline unsafe, the board made the brave attempt to put a bond on the May 2022 ballot, and then fought hard for it. [It lost by a ten percent margin](#). Later, [just this last September, the school district had to close schools because they were too warm for students, posing a safety concern](#).

When folks make funding decisions for our schools, either at a local level or at the state level, the people most affected are our students. The people with little to no voice in those decisions. That is why HBs 2257 and 3084 are so critical. It is incumbent on us to support them and ensure a safe learning environment. Here's how the bills would work:

HB 2257 would create a fund that would be housed with the Treasury and managed by the Oregon Department of Education. A fund that would provide funds for districts in need of resources to make urgent safety upgrades or changes to their infrastructure for students.

HB 3084 would use the Corporate Kicker to fund this fund. The Corporate Kicker is legally obligated to go towards K-12 education, and using these one-time dollars for one-time projects is an explement use for these funds.

OEA urges your support for both HB 2257 and HB 3084!