

## HB 2257: School Safety Construction Fund

### BACKGROUND

Students across the state, in both urban and rural areas, are attending schools with significant infrastructure needs that impact health, safety and learning. The traditional way to **fund infrastructure projects is to run a school bond, but this often does not work** for students in poor districts, or any district where the voters aren't willing or able to invest in education.

**Roseburg School District tried to pass a bond** this May to increase safety, accessibility, repair, and air quality in its buildings, as well as purchase emergency generators and get secure entrances throughout the district. **The bond failed**, 45% to 55%. This September, **students and staff across the district were sent home early due to excessive heat.**



**Corbett Middle School is structurally unsafe**, and would not withstand an earthquake. The Corbett School District had their school bond rejected by voters five times before finally passing on the sixth try. **By the time they collected the money, construction costs had risen, and the project could not proceed.**

### SUMMARY

- **HB 2257 is bipartisan** and establishes the **School Safety Construction Fund** in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.
- Appropriates moneys in fund continuously to the Oregon Department of Education for purposes of making grants to school districts for construction projects that **address urgent school safety needs.**

#### Grants could include but are not limited to:

- **Removing asbestos, radon sources, mold and other hazards**
- **Provide retrofitting against seismic events**
- **Install, repair, upgrade or replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning**
- **Remove sources of lead and other contaminants from drinking water and otherwise improve the safety of drinking water sources**
- **Repair school building roofs, walls, interiors and foundations**