

HB 2739 Current Service Level (CSL) Stabilization

BACKGROUND

The State School Fund (SSF) represents Oregon's largest investment and is the primary source of funding for K-12 public education for over half a million students. Eighty percent of each district's State School Fund allocation covers educators and staff who serve students through core programs and services. Dollars spent on K-12 education are critical upstream investments in Oregon's next generation of workforce, leaders, and thinkers. Ensuring that the Legislature has a clear picture of how much funding is needed to meet the needs of our students is currently a gap that needs to be addressed.

The current process leads to estimates that do not accurately reflect school district needs.

For the last 3 biennia, the process for estimating the Current Service Level (CSL) for the State School Fund has led to estimates that are significantly lower than the funding needed to maintain current services and stability in our schools. Oregon school business officials have repeatedly provided evidence demonstrating the significant differences in the current methodology. The result is that school districts will not receive the funding needed to maintain current staff and programs, thereby limiting their ability to meet student needs, even after the Legislature provides enough funding to meet the CSL estimate.



The Quality Education Commission released the Quality Education Model Report, which recommended "returning to a process that enables the state and advocates to reconcile these methodological differences to ensure greater accuracy in calculating the true, predictable costs of educating Oregon students without programming or staffing cuts."¹

Goals of HB 2739

- Provide an accurate calculation of the roll up cost of K-12 Education in Oregon.
- Create a transparent and collaborative CSL Committee that is inclusive of educators, school officials, and the Legislature to improve the CSL estimation process.
- Set the framework for required data and information that will be used to determine the CSL.



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