



Date: February 11, 2026
To: House Education Committee
From: Parasa Chanramy, COSA
Subject: COSA Support for HB 4112

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

We submit this letter to express our support for House Bill 4112. This bill would help restore funding for the Outdoor School Program in Oregon for the 2026-27 school year.

Unfortunately, during the 2025 Legislative Session, funding for outdoor school was reduced by 20% – creating a \$12 million shortfall for the program.

Given the timing of the state budget decision, districts and providers had to scramble and make difficult decisions to reduce and cut programs, adjust staffing, and in some cases, access one-time reserve funding to stabilize the program as well – which negatively impacted students' access to outdoor school, as well as staffing to support the program.

Outdoor school programs provide students with hands-on and immersive learning experiences. In some cases, these programs are a student's first experience in exploring the dunes of the Oregon Coast, smelling the evergreens of the mountain range in Central Oregon, or seeing the basalt canyons of Eastern Oregon.

These programs also help support students' social-emotional health and wellness, and teamwork and collaboration skills, which also help complement student learning in the classroom.

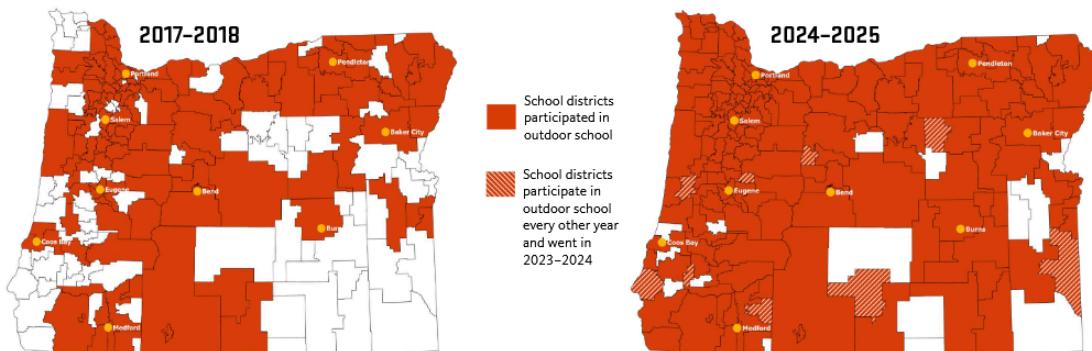
Restoring funding for the Outdoor School Program this session will be critical to ensuring that we can provide adequate staffing and consistent high-quality programming for more students in Oregon.

Please vote yes on HB 4112 to help restore funding for the Outdoor School Program.



Background and Impact of Outdoor School Programs: Oregon voters approved Measure 99 in November 2016 which earmarked lottery dollars to help more students in accessing outdoor school programs across our state.

More stable funding for the Outdoor School Program has helped more and more districts participate in outdoor school (from 124 in 2017-18 to 175 in 2024-25), which also helped more eligible students access high-quality outdoor learning experiences (from 30,834 to 36,111).



Since the first year of statewide funding, participation has grown from 124 to 175 school districts.²

Outdoor school participation

In 2024-2025, nearly every public school district and roughly 85% of eligible students participated in outdoor school for the third year in a row.

	First year of OSU Outdoor School funds	Growth disrupted by COVID-19	Three-year period of voter-intended funding levels				
			2017-2018	2018-2022 ⁵	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
	Students who attended outdoor school	30,834					
	Approximate attendance of all eligible students ³	67%					
	School districts that participated in outdoor school	124					
	Schools that participated in outdoor school	385					
	Student days spent outside ⁴	115,300					
	Hours of professional development provided by the Outdoor School Program	Not tracked					

([2025 Outdoor School Annual Report, OSU Extension](#))