



## TTSD SUPERINTENDENT BLOG

Tigard-Tualatin School District

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### CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Focused on school  
funding.

I'm writing today to share important information regarding the current legislative session focused on school funding, how the district is engaging in this critical work and how you, too, can join us in these efforts.

On Thursday, April 4, the Joint Committee on Student Success (JCSS) released their framework for investment of \$2B in K-12 education per biennium in House Bill 2019 (HB2019). This framework outlines three funding priorities directing the \$2B investment:

- 50% for a School Improvement Fund. SIF would be distributed to school districts based on current funding formula with a double weight for poverty. SIF funds may be spent in one or more of the four “buckets”: Social Emotional Learning (SEL); Increased Instructional Time; Class Size; and/or Whole Child Instruction. Based on feedback we are gathering from our community and staff, we know that proactive as well as restorative SEL services are a priority for our district as a whole. I have provided testimony to both the JCSS as well the TTSD Board that increasing mental health supports to the classroom are a priority for me as your superintendent.
- 30% for the Student Success Fund. Major highlights include: fully funding CTE/Measure 98; funding for universal school meals; doubling high cost disability funding; and funding for multiple equity-focused initiatives such as the African American and Black Student Success plan, Latino Student Success and Native American Student Success plans.
- 20% for expansion of Early Learning programs, including: fully funding Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Ed; Expansion of Head Start, Preschool Promise; and targeted investments in culturally specific early learning programs and Relief Nurseries.
- Additionally, districts may receive an additional \$100-200 M to be applied to the Current Service Level (CSL)/State School Fund from the JCSS. This would provide between \$8.97 to \$9.07B for CSL, of which TTSD receives approximately 2% of the allocation.

The JCSS also outlined spending accountability measures with which we are already familiar:

- 4-year graduation rates;
- Ninth grade on track;
- Third-grade reading level achievement;
- Attendance and,
- The possibility of local measures determined by the district

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Members of the TTSD community have been tireless in their proactive advocacy work with Washington County legislators as well as testifying to the House and Senate Education Committees and the JCSS Subcommittee on Transparency and Accountability. Joining me in advocating for clear mechanisms for investment, accountability policy and legislation in Salem and with lawmakers include School Board Vice Chair Maureen Wolf, Chief Financial Officer David Moore and Controller Elizabeth Michels, Assistant Superintendent Karen Twain, Tigard High School Principal Andy Van Fleet and Trauma Informed Specialist Alfonso Romero.

Amendments to HB 2019 were completed on Tuesday, April 9. Thursday, April 11 the JCSS took over three hours of testimony representing voices from across the state in support of this legislation. The accompanying revenue reform package, as presented, will raise the estimated \$2B and will solely be allocated to K-12. Following the hearing, the bill was renumbered and is now HB 3427. The bill is expected to reach the House floor for a vote the week of April 29 and is expected to pass. It will then move to the Senate with the goal of moving to the Governor's desk by the end of the first full week of May. That said, it is expected there will be community advocacy groups that will seek to overturn revenue reform legislation with a special election in January 2020. Continuing to share the great work we do in TTSD running up to this election will be more important than ever.

What does this mean for our current work in developing our district's budget? On April 2, we completed the Community Budget Work Group process where community members, school staff, parents and students convened to provide input on the 2019-20 budget. Presentations, materials and notes from these sessions are available on our district website under the "About Us" heading on the first page. On the drop-down menu, click on "Strategic Financial Plan". On the left hand side of this webpage you will see 2018-19 Community Work Groups link.

CFO David Moore and I will be visiting every school in April and May to share state and TTSD budget updates as well as to gather staff input regarding priorities and answer questions. Please see your building administrator for information regarding your school's date and time. Please also note if you have specific budget questions, such as why we hold reserve funds and how those funds are allocated, CFO Moore is available via email or phone to answer any and all questions you may have.

Additionally, I continue my community outreach work to our partners such as PTO/PSO leadership, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, as well as convening evening community meetings to share the state of the district including our budget process, use of state resources, updates on our current Bond work and to gather larger community input.

In February of this year, I provided our Board with an update to my performance goals, which are focused on closing our equity of student academic outcomes gap. Beginning 2019-20 I have committed to supporting our schools through revenue identified in HB 3427 in achieving targets of 5 % academic growth/year for all students and 8% academic growth for our underserved students of color and diverse languages. My leadership team and I are committed to transparency of information and process as we work to meet these critical growth targets.

Your questions, concerns and input are vital to ensuring we are allocating resources in an equitable and efficacious manner to achieve student outcome goals. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions and concerns. Additionally, the following Cabinet members are available to provide additional information and support as useful to you:

- **Director of Finance**, David Moore: Current budget, budget development, State School Fund. He may be reached at [dmoore@ttsd.k12.or.us](mailto:dmoore@ttsd.k12.or.us)
- **Director of Community Relations**, Traci Rose: Community and Government Relations (including tools for state and federal advocacy), Media Coordination (Local and National News outlets), School and District Communications (Parent/community communications, emergency communications, website) She may be reached at [trose1@ttsd.k12.or.us](mailto:trose1@ttsd.k12.or.us).

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We are at a critical juncture for our schools. Now is the time to act and make your voice heard. HB 3427 would bring greater fairness to the state's tax system while raising additional revenue for schools. It would invest exclusively in pre-K through high school in a targeted way that ensures accountability of resources while protecting the current base. This is potentially a transformative moment for education and our legislature must act now to pass this legislation.

Please take a few minutes of your time to send an email to your legislators and urge them to adequately fund public education.

Go to <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html> where you will find a simple way to look up the email addresses for both your Senate and House members.

I ask that you please CC: [trose1@ttsd.k12.or.us](mailto:trose1@ttsd.k12.or.us) so we can support your efforts. Tell your story! Tell your legislators, both House and Senate representatives, what your dream is for public education, for your children, grandchildren and the children of Oregon. We've all seen the impact of reductions, but we need to collectively focus on what we want as we look to grow public education in Oregon. Keep your email simple and focus on key messages:

- Fund education adequately! Support the proposal from the Joint Committee for Student Success (House Bill 3427) to create a \$2 billion investment in our children.
- Talk about your dream of what our education system should be and can be when we make true investments.
- Your belief that your children's success, Oregon's success, requires quality schools and that the status quo is NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
- Give an example of the situation in your school.
- Talk about the need for smaller classes, increased learning time, and/or greater supports for students.
- Ask them to show the leadership you elected them for and to solve this problem and fund schools.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy! Only through our concerted action, in partnership with districts around the state, will we be able to make a difference for our kids. Take time now to act!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue