

## OCCA Newsletter – April 18, 2011

### K-12 Budget Update

On April 12, the Oregon Senate unanimously passed a two-year \$5.7 billion budget for public schools, which included a bill for the overall budget and a bill to remove \$100 million from the rainy-day fund. The two school funding measures were then passed by a vote of 58 to 2 in the House the following day and signed by the Senate president on April 14.

For Oregon schools, the early passage of the budget means that school districts can plan on getting a minimum of \$5.7 billion, representing flat funding for schools. However, when inflation and enrollment increases are accounted for, the figure is about \$1 billion short of what schools need to maintain their current programs. Many districts will experience extreme cuts to programs and services as well as staffing cuts. Legislators continue to disagree on how and whether to use reserve funds for schools and other priorities, but by passing the budget early, schools may be protected from more cuts if the economy begins to worsen again.

Governor Kitzhaber has stated that he will sign the main school budget bill but will not remove \$100 million out of the rainy-day fund until legislators agree with his early childhood education and higher education funding proposals.

### Legislative Update

#### **HB 3521 - Student Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities**

The House Education Committee approved HB 3521 this week, the "Student Transfer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities," sending the bill to the full House floor. OCCA worked closely with Rep. Michael Dembrow, the co-chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee, to create the legislation. The bill would create guarantees for students transferring to an Oregon University System school with an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree or the Oregon Transfer Module.

#### **SB 242 – Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

#### **National Education News**

On April 14, the House passed the fiscal year 2011 spending plan, funding the federal government through September 30 and reducing funding by \$40 billion when compared to FY 2010 levels. The resolution was then passed by the Senate and signed by President Obama.

All agencies and programs received a 0.2% across-the-board cut, cutting \$1 billion in total. The Pell Grant maximum award was maintained at \$5,550 for the upcoming academic year 2011-2012, but the summer Pell grant was eliminated. A summary of program cuts affecting education and workforce programs as outlined by the Association of Community College Trustees follows:

#### *Department of Education:*

- Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) = -\$63.9 million (eliminated)
- Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG) = -\$20 million
- FIPSE earmarks = -\$101.5 million
- Adult Education = -\$31 million
- TRIO = -\$25 million
- GEAR UP = -\$20 million
- Perkins Title II Career and Technical Education (Tech Prep) = -\$103 million (eliminated)
- Perkins Title I Basic State Grant = -\$35 million

#### *Department of Labor:*

- Green Jobs Innovation Fund = -\$40 million (eliminated)
- Career Pathways Innovation Fund = -\$250 million (rescinding the \$125 million in FY 2010 funds – halting the current grant competition, and eliminating \$125 million in FY 2011 funds)
- WIA Dislocated Worker Assistance = -\$125 million
- WIA Adult program = -\$90.5 million
- WIA Youth program = -\$96.5 million

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#### **Legislative Media Coverage**

Live and archived video and audio coverage of all legislative proceedings, including committee hearings, Senate and House floor sessions and news conferences, can be found on the Legislature's [Audio/Video](#) website page or on OCCA's [2011 Legislative Session](#) page.

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**All Oregon Academic Team Event  
(Formerly "Student Scholar")**

The Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on SB 242 this week, which would create a coordinating commission for higher education and grant the Oregon University System further autonomy. The hearing was an introductory hearing for the committee. SB 242 was referred to the Education Subcommittee after it passed the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee in March.

April 21, 2011  
Oregon State Capitol and  
Salem Conference Center, Salem

**Oregon Presidents Council**

April 22, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

**Oregon Presidents Council**

May 12-13 2011  
Salem, Oregon

**OCCA Board Meeting**

May 13, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

**State Board of Education**

May 19, 2011  
Salem, Oregon

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