

Access

The Education Commission of the States estimates that Oregon must provide *expanded* postsecondary access to 106,842 additional students by 2015 in order to match the participation rate for the best performing benchmark states based on demographic predictions.

The appropriation to the Support Fund has been volatile in recent sessions making it impossible for the colleges to maintain programs and services. In response, colleges have had to increase tuition and close class sections, thus limiting access for thousands of Oregonians. While local Board decisions will still control individual budget choices and no school will be able to do all these things, listed below is a sampling of some actions colleges can choose from to increase access with an investment of \$529 million.

- ⌘ Add night and weekend classes to serve working adults. Expand campus child care services. Expand instructional capacity in job-readiness skills such as math, writing and English as a Second Language. Where possible, increase early childhood education programs and housing for students who are single parents and from families disrupted by methamphetamine addictions.
- ⌘ Increase investments in Distance Education to serve students who can't affordably get to campuses. Open new learning centers in rural areas where funding can meet demand.
- ⌘ Increase student support and retention services including those targeted to more diverse students. Invest in systems that track and support student advising and comprehensive career planning.
- ⌘ To the extent possible, reduce, freeze or hold down tuition and fees.
- ⌘ Create wrap-around services and increased alignment with K-12 to ensure local high school graduates transition into post secondary education. Expand Early College/College Now classes. Increase offerings in Oregon Transfer Module and Expanded Options (SB300) for high school students. Create new programs to offer professional technical courses to high school students in manufacturing technology, wood and masonry construction, electronics and instrument technology, computer technology, transportation and pre-engineering.
- ⌘ Make improvements in physical access and expand services for disabled students.
- ⌘ Increase the number of students served.