



Superintendent Budget “Stump” Speech

As we plan for and build our 2017-18 budget in XX district, there is one number that we cannot ignore – \$7.8 billion dollars. That’s the State School Fund number that the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means in the Legislature have said is the most likely funding level for our K-12 school system with the revenues currently available. K-12 schools need \$8.4 billion to be able to offer the same programs to our students next year that we are providing today. And let them know that you expect them to put partisan bickering aside and do what is right for the students of Oregon by passing a K-12 budget that won’t mean more devastating cuts for our students.

And while our legislators acknowledge that this is a “cuts” budget for K-12 schools, I want to tell you what this means in our district – let’s get real about what the cuts really are.

Unless this funding level increases significantly, we will be forced to consider the following:

- Teachers/staff – <Include how many layoffs or positons that will go unfilled because of attrition. Provide the count by “lost positions”.>
- Cuts to days/shortening the school year – <Include how many days or weeks must be cut to balance the budget.>
- Loss of programs/eliminating programs – <Be specific about what course offerings or program cuts are on the chopping block.>
- Unsustainable spending and/or use of all reserves – <Explain how this will only delay the pain for one or two years and leave the district in a precarious financial position.>
- Other things you want to include – <no new textbooks, continuing to use outdated computers, can’t fix the roof – etc.>



I have talked with our Legislators about the impacts of \$7.8 billion on our district, and more important, the impact this budget would have on our students. I have asked them to make K-12 funding and our students a priority by finding a bipartisan solution to this continued disinvestment in our schools. This assignment is within reach and it can be done. But we need your help.

It is not too late to make your voice heard in Salem. I urge each one of you to call, email or write your legislators and tell them that it is time to make K-12 funding a priority. Our students deserve the best education system we can provide for them – and \$7.8 billion doesn't get us there.

Please help us. Tell our legislators that K-12 schools need \$8.4 billion to be able to offer the same programs to our students next year that we are providing today. And let them know that you expect them to put partisan bickering aside and do what is right for the students of Oregon by passing a K-12 budget that won't mean more devastating cuts for our students.

With our economy in good shape and a bright future, it is mystifying how education can be so poorly supported. Showing support for K-12 has never been more important, if we are to achieve greater success as a state. There is no question that Oregonians are looking for a few heroes to help save K-12 education. Let's hope our legislators are willing to step up and lead us, as heroes would. Let's inspire them to lead us up and out of this chronic budget hole.