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Legislative Update

October 28, 2026 | Centennial School Board

Oregon State Dynamics – 2026 Election

how_to_voteMajor State Races

- All 60 House seats + half (15) Senate seats up, and some statewide offices, including the Governor, are on the ballot
- Potential for changes to legislative leadership and budget & policy committee chairs

schoolImplications for K-12 education

- State budget and policy direction depending on new leadership, the outcome of the Governor's race, political party margins, and economic outlook

Upcoming Interim Legislative Dates

Nov 3
General Election

Nov 18
Quarterly Revenue Forecast

Dec 1–3
December Legislative Days

Dec 1 (tentative)
Governor's Recommended Budget release

Dec 11
Pre-session filing deadline

Jan 11–15
Organizational Days

Jan 15
LC Request Deadline

Jan 19 – Jun 27
Long Session
Convenes Jan 19, 2027
Sine Die: June 27

Budget Context Heading Into 2027

SSF & CSL Outlook

$12.6B (+10.5% CSL)

Up from $11.4B in 2025–27. CSL is a starting point, not a guaranteed appropriation—final funding is a legislative decision.

Funding Gaps (QEC Estimates)

$1.2B Gap to maintain status quo funding

$3.9B More to fully fund Quality Education Model

Cost Pressures & Revenue

Growing Unsupported Costs
Mandates like unemployment insurance add pressure without dedicated funding.

CAT Funding Impact
Corporate Activity Tax for SIA, High School Success, and other programs.

Scrutiny & Shifting Narrative

State School Fund & CAT Under Scrutiny
Largest General Fund investments face competing demands in a challenging budget environment.

Focus on Outcomes
Policymakers are increasingly questioning whether funding alone improves student outcomes.

2027 Legislative Session: Major Issues on the Horizon

State Budget and Revenue

Balancing the 2027–29 budget amid constrained revenues, rising service costs, and competing funding needs.

Transportation Funding

Developing sustainable funding for roads, bridges, and public transit, with attention to affordability, safety, and accountability.

Responding to H.R. 1

Addressing federal SNAP and Medicaid changes, increased state costs, and potential losses of food assistance and health coverage.

Economic Growth & Prosperity Council

Proposals to modernize economic development, revise business taxes, streamline permitting, prepare industrial land, and align workforce development.

Healthcare and Behavioral Health

Maintaining access to affordable care and strengthening mental health, addiction treatment, and community support systems.

Housing and Homelessness

Increasing housing supply and affordability, preserving existing affordable housing, and expanding supportive housing.

2027 Legislative Session: Education Issues to Watch

School Funding Formula & QEM
Potential changes to how funding is calculated and distributed, how student needs are weighted, and cost measurement.

Chronic Absenteeism & Student Engagement
Attendance expectations, accountability, and strategies to address barriers and reconnect students with school.

EdTech, Screen Time & Artificial Intelligence
Guardrails for classroom technology and AI, balancing instructional benefits with student well-being and safety.

OTIS Investigations
Timely, transparent investigations that protect students, ensure due process, and clarify district responsibilities.

Class Size, Caseloads & Workplace Safety
Potential expansion of mandatory bargaining subjects, with implications for staffing, budgets, and operations.

Graduation & Postsecondary Readiness
Potential changes to diploma requirements and pathways, balancing high expectations with flexibility.

School Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Prevention, threat assessment, emergency response, and community partner coordination for safe schools.

Instructional Time
The State Board of Education continues to talk about instructional time through rulemaking and we may also have bills that pertain to this subject.

2027 East Multnomah County School Districts' Legislative Priorities

01 Protect and strengthen education funding
Fully fund SSF at CSL; preserve Education Stability Fund, CAT revenues, and SSA investments.

02 Modernize Oregon's funding system
Establish statewide commission to update SSF & QEM by June 2029, updating weights and gap-closing resources.

03 Address costs beyond district control
Reduce unemployment costs and pursue sustainable solutions for PERS and state-directed cost pressures.

04 Reduce unfunded mandates & burden
Fully fund state requirements; streamline duplicative grants, reporting, and compliance processes.

05 Strengthen special ed & early intervention
Address cap limits; fully fund High-Cost Disability Account, EI/ECSE, and Regional Inclusive Services.

06 Protect alternative ed & recovery schools
Sustain essential alternative pathways and expand access to recovery schools statewide.

07 Protect full funding for Outdoor School
Support the **$63 million** CSL/M99 request for voter-approved outdoor education programs.

08 Strengthen assessment participation
Repeal or modify opt-out law to improve data reliability for instruction and student support.

How We Will Review Legislation

Every bill should strengthen a coherent, equitable, and effective education system.

System alignment
Does it connect statewide goals, policies, and investments while clarifying responsibilities?

Capacity to deliver
Are staffing, guidance, training, and timelines sufficient and realistic?

Student opportunity
Does it improve instruction, expand access to support, and close opportunity gaps?

Accountability and improvement
Are outcomes measurable, data reliable, and supports in place to improve results?

Adequate resources
Are full implementation and ongoing costs identified and sustainably funded?

Support

Bills that advance these goals.

Seek amendments

To improve alignment and implementation.

Oppose

Unfunded obligations, fragmentation, and duplication without credible student benefit.

Engagement and Advocacy Opportunities

Build relationships early

Meet with legislators before session and maintain regular communication throughout the legislative session.

Invite legislators into schools

Host a legislator for a district tour and visit to see classrooms, programs, student supports, and district operations, so we can share the East County School districts' story firsthand.

Participate in regional engagement

Attend legislator town halls and events, and engage in East County advocacy opportunities.

Stay connected during session

Respond to key developments and opportunities for testimony, meetings, and public input.

Attend the Education advocacy day

Join Board Members and District Superintendents and Administrators from across the state on March 18 at the Oregon Capitol.

Build an accessible advocacy toolkit

Launch a Multnomah County parent advocacy toolkit in November with resources families can use and engage with on their own time.