

Multnomah County Schools Legislative Summit

This past year has brought many unexpected circumstances, causing districts to be ever-nimble in addressing new challenges. While there have been some opportunities along the way as well, we know that it will take a lot to help our staff and students bounce back from the 19-20 and 20-21 school years.

As districts plan for the coming biennium, and resuming in-building instruction, we have a few priorities on our mind that we hope our legislative partners will share:

Student Support

We know that this last year has been hard on everyone, including our students. While a portion have thrived in a home learning environment, many have not. Those students will need additional support to help them regain ground that might have been lost during CDL. And just as we were already prioritizing behavior supports for students prior to the pandemic, we anticipate seeing an increase in students' needs for emotional support once we are back in person.

- In addition to our standard funding, we need to be mindful of potential additional costs associated with:
 - Extended school year opportunities
 - Additional social-emotional supports for students and staff

Stable & Sustainable Funding

We appreciate the various investments that have been made in K-12 over the past few years, and we hope to see that investments maintained. Particularly after the chaos of this last year, we need stable and sustainable funding for our schools.

- For the State School Fund:
 - While the Governor's budget included \$9.1 billion, we do not believe this reflects true CSL
 - Districts need 49% in first year, and 51% in second year to allow for inflation
 - Any potential changes to SSF allocation methods should be approached with extreme caution - it would be a lot to ask districts to plan for their first year back after CDL with a new funding model
- Any new mandates (e.g. class size) without appropriate funding will put further strain on our schools' ability to get students caught up after the pandemic

Facilities

While the majority of students have not been in our buildings for nearly a year, the ongoing support for facility modernizations is still very much needed to maintain our older buildings.

- Key investments from the Governor's budget include:
 - \$138.2 million for OSCIM Bond Matching Grants
 - \$160 Seismic Rehabilitation Grants
 - \$3.5 million for a Statewide K-12 Facilities Assessment
 - \$17.5 million for broadband for K-12