

Question Number	Question	Asked By	Answer
1	Pg. 23: Item 1210: I see no funding for Talented and Gifted- is that accurate? If it is... is there anything we can do to get even a little funding in that category?	Amanda Olson	Page 23 shows staffing FTE. The budget for Talented and Gifted can be found on page 44 of the proposed budget. We do have a dedicated person (Teacher on Special Assignment) who helps coordinate our District wide K-12 TAG programming and is paid out of SIA funds. This person provides professional development, tracks TAG data, identifies TAG students, coordinates TAG plans, coordinates the summer TAG program, and is the point person for school TAG contacts.
2	Pg. 19: Under Instruction: I see General Fund-Non SpED and Special Revenue -Non Sped. What types of staff fall under the Special Revenue category?	Amanda Olson	If you look at the green column headers of the table on page 23 and look at the subtotal for instruction you can see the departments they work in. The majority are teachers and education support staff. Of the approximately 172 FTE in question, 52 FTE work in Special Education, 42 FTE work on Title I grants, 2 FTE work with English Language Learners and the remaining 76 FTE work across Elementary, Middle and High School locations.
3	In the past MSD has provided funding for preschools operated by the Ivy School; where in the manual can I find the budget line for this? Additionally, I understand that funding for those preschools dropped from the 23-24 school year to the present 24-25, is there a possibility to resume the prior level of funding? When I think about the struggles the elementary school teachers experience, I believe that there is an opportunity for improvement in kindergarten preparedness and social/ emotional development in those preschool programs that is invaluable.	Amanda Olson	You can see preschool funding, what we call Kindergarten Readiness, in the SIA budget on page 129. Funding for 2025-26 is projected the same as 2024-25 at \$375K. Some of the Ivy school students do qualify for the State Preschool Promise grant. It is accurate that the funding was cut in half last year. This current school year and next year we have an additional SEA (Social Emotional Advocate) that is dedicated to assisting with incoming high needs kindergarteners and provide support to the kindergarten teachers across the district. We also do a Kindergarten Jumpstart program each summer to help with the transition from preschool to kindergarten.
4	I had one question for submission. Last year we had discussed a potential for consolidating two elementary schools due to enrollment rates and budget constraints. I didn't see anything mentioned in the current plans. Is this consolidation still being discussed?	Kaylee Fugate	School closures/consolidations are a difficult decision for most communities. Most communities struggle with these decision in part due to the majority of cost savings coming from reductions in staffing and the feeling of loss for each neighborhood that has a school closed. Having said this, given existing and projected declines in enrollment, without a prioritization of/investment in K-12 funding at the state level, the consolidation of schools seems inevitable over the next decade for most larger school districts in Oregon, including the Medford School District. Beaverton school district did announce the intent to close some schools about a year ago but pulled back (May 24) after public pushback . Beaverton is in the process of looking at potentially closing/consolidating Elementary schools when it opens its new Raleigh Hills Elementary School in the 2026-27 school year. We know the largest school district in the state, Portland, has said they are going to be discussing this issue all next fiscal year in 2025-26 and Corvallis School District is seeking a facilitator for a consolidation and closure committee so some school districts in Oregon have already started this process. As enrollment continues to decline in Medford, this will be a future topic of discussion.
5	Page 49 lists the budget for Alternative Education and it says at the bottom that the Juvenile Detention Education Program is a county-wide program, I'm wondering if the county contributes any funding toward this program or is this purely coming from the general fund?	Casey Stine	The JDEP program is either fully funded or close to fully funded each year by a state General Fund Juvenile Detention Grant found under state sources on page 13.
6	Page 54 lists that there is a software increase due to a change from Rosetta Stone to Duolingo. Is there a reason for this?	Casey Stine	All curriculum is periodically updated and staff in each subject area evaluates new curriculum at that time. It is also important to note, in general, computer hardware and software cost increases are outpacing inflation and the use of technology is ever increasing in the classroom

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7	Page 55 is the budget for the Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) at NMHS. Is there more information we can get about this program? Is there a waitlist for this program or is it an automatic enrollment?	Casey Stine	<p>Enrollment in the program is not mandatory for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and there is no waiting list.</p> <p>From the description on page 55:</p> <p>The Pregnant and Parenting Teen (PPT) program is located at the North Medford High School Child Development Center (CDC). The PPT program serves students from school districts across Southern Oregon and helps achieve multiple objectives including: 1) helping pregnant students graduate from high school or obtain a GED; 2) helping students pursue a high school pathway and take college articulated coursework; 3) providing childcare services both for students with children and the community at large; 4) teaching healthy lifestyles and parenting skills; and 5) educating high school students on child development. They serve an average of 10 teen parents, 14 preschool aged children, and 18 pre-education students.</p> <p>The CDC is a vital piece for our NMHS Pre-Education Pathway and education courses. The program is articulated with Rogue Community College's Early Learning and Elementary Education Program. Any student has the opportunity to take numerous levels of education courses, along with some field experiences courses in our CDC. Students who complete the program are eligible for 13 college credits which awards them a basic certificate in Early Childhood Education upon graduation.</p> <p>There are Federal block grants, and the State Department of Human Services support payments and local Preschool user fees to help fund the PPT program.</p>
8	On page 61 is the budget for Attendance Specialists. I know there was a cut last year in this staffing, is it on the goals list to increase FTE for this in the coming years? It seems this would be an important position to keep fully staffed to make sure our attendance and enrollment stays higher (even with low birth rate).	Casey Stine	There are no immediate plans to increase FTE in this area. We have seen improvements in attendance statistics so far in this school year (2024-25) which is attributed to Attendance Specialists and the work done by counselors, APs and other school based staff.
9	What is the reason for the \$620K transfer from the general fund to the Secondary Athletics fund?	Michael Williams	The \$620K transferred from the General Fund to Secondary Athletics is to subsidize the cost of these programs. There are both gate fees and participation fees collected but they do not fully fund the cost of these programs. About a decade ago, the budget committee voted to reduce athletic fees to students. Some students who cannot afford the fees have their fees waived each year.
10	FY22-23 spending under Function 2240 (Page 77) (Instructional Staff Development) was \$123K. It ballooned to \$1.08M in FY 24-25 before settling at \$882K in FY 25-26, this appears to be a 615% increase over three years. There is no clear linkage between this level of investment and improved academic performance or staff retention.	Michael Williams	Additional funds (primarily staff time and staff substitute labor) were added for staff time to learn and prep new ELA and Math curriculum in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (as noted in narrative on page 77) focused on supporting Board goals for improved reading and math proficiency. For 2025-26, the district is adopting three curriculum subjects in one year, Health, Science and Social Science. These funds allow additional time for staff to review curriculum to be chosen and for time to train staff on the new curriculum.
11	Was there a decrease in pupil transportation? If so, what were the leading factors?	Michael Williams	Pupil transportation (Page 95) did decline during the pandemic primarily as a result of a reduction of available drivers from approximately 99 to 50. Since then the driver count has been increasing every year and there are now over 90 drivers. The contract with First Student also allows for an annual rate increase.

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12	Can we be provided with a breakdown of all out-of-state travel expenses by department, staff member, and purpose for FY 24-25 and FY 25-26? What are the top 3 departments who spend the most out of state travel? Admin office travel accounts for a significant portion of out-of-state travel with limited public documentation on outcomes.	Michael Williams	For 2024-25 so far there have been 108 out of state trips totaling \$259K, averaging \$2.4K per trip. 57 trips were funded by grants, 43 trips funded by the General Fund and 8 trips funded by Student Body Funds. The top 3 departments/schools with highest spending on out of state trips this year are SMHS \$52K, Federal Programs \$43K and Oakdale Middle School \$21.6K. Three employees had 3 trips out of state, seven employees had 2 trips out of state and eighty-five employees, including the Superintendent, had 1 out of state trip. Eleven trips were to the Synergy conference, 7 trips were to the Association of Middle Level Education conference and 6 trips each went to the American School Counselor Association and Get Your Teach On conferences. The District does not have a list of future out of state trips for next year 2025-26.
13	Please provide a breakdown of how after school programs are funded, disaggregated by Title 1 and Non-Title 1 schools?	Michael Williams	<p>On Page 36 Elementary After School Programs</p> <p>The District completed a request for proposal (RFP) process at the end of FY18-19 to select an afterschool provider or providers for 13 of its 14 elementary schools through the FY21-22 school year. Both contracts are approved on an annual basis going forward.</p> <p>The District supplements a combination of \$120,000 from Title I funds and \$62,000 from the General Fund in an effort to scholarship students in poverty. An in-kind contribution of rent-free facilities is also provided by the District.</p> <p>Innovation Learning operates contracted after school programs at Abraham Lincoln, Griffin Creek, Hoover, Jacksonville, and Lone Pine. Kids Unlimited operates contracted after school programs at Howard, Jackson, Jefferson, Kennedy, Oak Grove, Roosevelt, Washington, and Wilson.</p>
14	Page ii- Should the amounts in paragraphs 3 and 4 match-\$11.36 billion vs \$11.46 billion?	Brooke Lazzari	No, the district has assumed \$100 million higher state school funding than what was proposed by the Governor which results in approximately \$1.1 million of additional state school funds for the District in 2025-26
15	Page iii- Why is consolidating to fewer locations not being implemented when all indications are continued declining enrollment?	Brooke Lazzari	School closures/consolidations are a difficult decision for most communities. Most communities struggle with these decision in part due to the majority of cost savings coming from reductions in staffing and the feeling of loss for each neighborhood that has a school closed. Having said this, given existing and projected declines in enrollment, without a prioritization of/investment in K-12 funding at the state level, the consolidation of schools seems inevitable over the next decade for most larger school districts in Oregon, including the Medford School District.
16	Page 9- Bullet 9 Typo-\$0.04 million	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
17	Page 12- What are examples of Field Trip Reimbursement? Why is this revenue declining-decrease in funding for the field trip themselves?	Brooke Lazzari	Field trip reimbursements are budgeted at \$15K. YTD trend for 2024-25 is down. We will continue to monitor this and if there is a significant shift in trend next year, we will increase or decrease this budget.
18	Page 23- What happens if the Federally funded grants drop?	Brooke Lazzari	Right now, based on the best information available, we are assuming a drop of 10% or less for federal school grants. We will have some carryover grant funds to cover most of this impact. If funds drop more than 10%, the state has implied it would go use some of its reserves to backfill at least a portion of the drop. If there is a drop in revenue and no backfill by the state there will be spending reductions.
19	Page 26- Why is there "ever-increasing substitute usage"?	Brooke Lazzari	Here is a link to a recent article from the Oregonian discussing school district absenteeism.
20	Page 27- What causes the fluctuation in the Accelerated Reader Software expense?	Brooke Lazzari	As a district, we have moved away from Accelerated Reader for other alternatives, but we have a few schools that continue its use.
21	Page 33- If FTE is remaining the same at all levels, why is the Elementary School budget decreasing and the Middle School and High School increasing?	Brooke Lazzari	This is referring to the Music summary page. We have some anticipated attrition and movement of staff between grade levels.

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22	Page 33- Can a similar schedule for STEAM being prepared that shows the FTE and spending?	Brooke Lazzari	Given the size of the program, we are not planning on adding a separate schedule for STEAM to the book. We currently have 2.5 STEAM teachers serving elementary schools. We would like to increase this amount so that all students across the district receive STEAM. We currently have enough elective teachers in elementary schools to serve all students but there is inconsistency in what students receive. Rather than cutting existing music or PE positions, we have been adding STEAM as these positions are vacated. For example, as a music or PE teacher leaves the district, we add a STEAM teacher instead in an effort to provide more equitable experiences for all students in the district.
23	Page 36- Why does the District supplement \$100,000 to the Elementary After School Programs?	Brooke Lazzari	The District previously had an internally managed program that was much more expensive. The \$100K is for scholarshiping students who can't afford these services.
24	Page 36- Did the targeted classroom ranges change for FY 25-26?	Brooke Lazzari	There was no change to the targeted ranges for 2025-26.
25	Page 38- Is the iReady Diagnostic subscription a multi-year agreement that's paid upfront?	Brooke Lazzari	Yes, it's a two year agreement paid up front.
26	Page 44- Are the 957 students served or just identified? Is there tracking of what services are received?	Brooke Lazzari	TAG students - We do have a dedicated person (Teacher on Special Assignment) who helps coordinate our District wide K-12 TAG programming and is paid out of SIA funds. This person provides professional development, tracks TAG data, identifies TAG students, coordinates TAG plans, coordinates the summer TAG program, and is the point person for school TAG contacts. Students' TAG plans are tracked annually.
27	Page 58- How many students are served by this program? If it's an increasing number, why has the expense been flat?	Brooke Lazzari	1297 At Risk - Explanation of Maslow services provided.
28	Page 66- It would be helpful to add a note that the Professional Services were transferred to 2191 (like the note on 2191).	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
29	Page 75- Classified Salaries have increased, but PERS has decreased. If PERS rates went up, why is this expense down?	Brooke Lazzari	In any given department there are multiple variables in accounting for PERS, whether employees are Tier I/II (higher rate) or OPSRP (lower rate) and if you have any new employees (attrition/transfers) who don't pay PERS for the first six months until they qualify.
30	Page 80- Why is Dues/Fees/Memberships expected to nearly double?	Brooke Lazzari	For function 2321 dues, fees and memberships are up \$8.6K and HR is down \$7.8K due to a transfer between departments.
31	Page 89- What is the breakdown of FTE by location? Is it flat across the schools, enrollment based, square footage, etc. Also, is there potential savings if this function was outsourced to a private company that you wouldn't pay PERS on?	Brooke Lazzari	<p>Custodial:</p> <p>Elementary schools are staffed with one morning custodian and one night custodian. Middle Schools have a site supervisor, 4-5 custodians, and one student custodian. High Schools have a site supervisor, 6-7 custodians, and 3 student custodians. Building square footage for 21 sites comes in just under 2 million. That averages 32,787 square feet of coverage per custodian.</p> <p>For Biddle, Bartlett, & IA we use a contractor. 811 Cleaning Service charges \$40/hr to clean these buildings. During a normal week, they spend 9 hours at Bartlett, 10 hours at IA, and 15 hours at Biddle. So far this fiscal year we have spent around \$39k on their services. Using this service at the buildings we only need partially staffed works well. Plus we save money on holidays, spring break, Christmas break, and summer, since we cut back our services during these times. During the summer we generally only have them clean the Biddle location.</p> <p>There might potentially be savings from outsourcing custodial services. Any such process would require an RFP process that complies with both State Laws ORS 279B.033 for outsourcing and the contractual limitations within the OSEA union contract. The current OSEA contract does not allow outsourcing of any new function through the term of the contract which ends 06/30/2026. As such, any new outsourcing would require bargaining with the OSEA.</p>

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32	Page 92- Why is garbage expected to increase 33%?	Brooke Lazzari	The current year budget is too low at \$237K. The current year actual will be likely be closer to \$300K. Next year's increase is actually closer to 6%
33	Page 95- What percentage of students take the bus for home-to-school transportation?	Brooke Lazzari	Approximately 35%. Only about half of the enrolled students qualify for busing, the rest live within walking boundaries or are on transfers. Many students eligible for transportation are dropped off/picked up by parents.
34	Page 108- Typo-"Transitions School (for 187-21 year old students)	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
35	Page 115- Is there a plan if the Federal funding doesn't continue?	Brooke Lazzari	We do not have a long term plan as we do not have a long term projection on federal funding. Unfortunately, even some the short run impacts may not be known until September. If funds are cut over the long term and the state does not backfill, we will need to reduce costs.
36	Page 115- What is the Other (Primarily Indirect Overhead to General Fund) include? Is this reported as a General Fund Resource?	Brooke Lazzari	ODE calculates a federally approved indirect rate each year. That rate is applied to most federal grants and a few state grants for indirect work provided by general fund staff and shows up as a revenue in the General Fund. Total fees charged to grants is estimated at \$1.1 million (see page 12).
37	Page 121- Please update the description for the Security Camera Replacements (same as Computer Replacement).	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
38	Page 124- Is there a 25-26 update? This sounds like prior year.	Brooke Lazzari	We are not doing a large replacement of Chromebooks this year, but did replace most Chromebooks in 2023-24. The fund collects a transfer each year for four or five years and then a large purchase of Chromebooks is made to replace aged/obsolete equipment.
39	Page 129- What is the Indirect Overhead of \$500,000. Is this reported as a General Fund Resource?	Brooke Lazzari	Yes, see General Fund page 12 - fees charged to grants
40	Page 143- 1288 Charter Schools-should this be updated to include Valley and Kids Unlimited ?	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
41	Page 144- 1296 Homeschool-typo "...and personnel form the school."	Brooke Lazzari	Noted
42	General- Is there a breakdown of funding by elementary school? This budget is extremely high-level and given the enrollment disparity, how does the funding relate?	Brooke Lazzari	No, there isn't a breakdown by Elementary school in the book. The primary cost of Elementary Schools is staffing and it is reviewed by location in November of the current fiscal year, again at budget time (spring) and again in the fall when we see how many kids show up at each location for the new school year. General Fund Staffing is balanced based on enrollment. Each school is given an allocation by student for supplies based on estimated enrollment at budget time. If actual enrollment varies widely from estimated enrollment, monies are transferred in or out as necessary. Title schools receive additional Title funds that are used to provide additional resources. Special education and English Language Learner resources are allocated by school based on these enrollments.
43	Slide 31- What is the actual enrollment total vs ADMr (if kindergartens were counted as 1 student)?	Brooke Lazzari	If we look at this today 04/15/2025 total enrollment is 14,553 and ADMr is 13,526.3. Elementaries' difference ranges from 15-45 per school Middle falls at about 100 per school High school around 200 – 300 per school