

Board Talking Points

June 2026

As the school year winds down, we hope you take time to celebrate the accomplishments of the staff and students. Watching the graduating seniors walk across the stage is particularly gratifying!

Summer break is approaching fast. However, school leaders are already planning for the 26-27 school year. Key opportunities and challenges are emerging:

- **State Economic Forecast** The May economic forecast conveyed a stable economic picture for Oregon. While there exists global uncertainty, the forecast gives us more confidence that our K-12 budget will not see reductions in the coming year.
- **State Expenditures and Mandates** Despite Oregon's increased investment in K-12 funding, school districts and ESDs are struggling to meet student needs and cover growing costs (salaries/wages, PERS, and health insurance). During the 2027 legislative session, we must re-elevate systemic issues and underfunding in the SSF formula. The COSA Funding Work Group will inform and guide efforts to update the poverty weight and address the significant underfunding for our students experiencing disabilities (11% cap, declining high-cost disability grant reimbursements).
- **Instructional Time and Accountability** Governor Kotek's Executive Order and ODE's implementation of SB 141 will receive significant focus due to potential impacts on collective bargaining, school calendars, and funding.

Have a wonderful summer! We will not send a Board Talking Points in July; we will resume in August.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services. IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap.