

How Are School Districts Funded? Where Do We Get Our Money From?

LOCAL REVENUES

- **Property taxes** (except those levied for voter approved debt payment)
All school districts have a permanent rate. This is the maximum rate that can be levied per thousand of assessed value. Winston-Dillard's permanent rate is \$4.3994 per thousand of assessed value. If your home is assessed at \$300,000 you would pay \$1,319.82 annually in property taxes to support your school district. **Thank you!!**
- **Common School Fund-327.405 Common School Fund; composition and use.** The Common School Fund shall be composed of the proceeds from the sales of the 16th and 36th sections of every township or of any lands selected in lieu thereof; all the moneys and clear proceeds of all property that may accrue to the state by escheat or forfeiture; the proceeds of all gifts, devises and bequests made by any person to the state for common school purposes; the proceeds of all property granted to the state when the purpose of such grant is not stated; all proceeds of the sale of submerged and submersible lands as described in ORS 274.005; all proceeds of the sale of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve as described in ORS 273.553 in the event such property is sold; all proceeds of the sale of the 500,000 acres of land to which this state is entitled by an Act of Congress approved September 4, 1841, and of all lands selected for capitol building purposes under Act of Congress approved February 14, 1859; and all proceeds derived from the investment of moneys that compose the fund. All such proceeds shall become a part of the fund. **Think Elliott State Forest. Think Oregon Department of State Lands unclaimed funds.**
- **County School Fund- 328.005 County school fund; uses.** (1) The governing body of each county shall create a county school fund. (2) When a county governing body transfers federal forest reserve receipts under ORS 294.060 (4) subject to a condition that such moneys be used only for a purpose described in ORS 328.205 (1)(a) or (c), a school district receiving a share of such moneys may not use the moneys for any other purpose.

STATE SCHOOL FUND

As of **March 3, 2025** the states funding level for all schools and ESDs for the **2025-2027** biennium is based on **\$9.359 Billion** and is set to be distributed at 49% the first year, and 51% of the allocation in the second year of the biennium. There are approximately 189 school districts and 19 ESDs in the state. When you read in the news about proposed funding levels for schools; this is where the action is at.

- **ADMw** - Each school district is funded by the state on a per student basis according to a formula appropriately named the school support formula or SSF. Funding is based on the number of students enrolled (ADM), not attendance. If a student is absent for 10 days, they are dropped on the 11th day, and no longer count for funding. Each student

enrolled is counted as one “weight”. This is shown as ADMr (ADM resident). Students in poverty, in English language learner programs, and special education students on an IEP (individualized education program) add additional weights to the total number of students. Districts are funded on the higher student count for either the current year or prior school year. This allows districts a year to plan for reductions if their student count is declining. Our current Extended ADMw is 1,513.83.

- **Teacher Experience** – Next, is the adjustment to that target amount for teacher experience. Districts whose average teacher experience is greater than the state’s overall average teacher experience will receive slightly more funding. Winston-Dillard’s teachers have a combined average experience of 11.75 years. The state average is currently 12.09 years. $12.09 - 11.75$ years is a factor of $-0.34 \times \$25 \times$ our 1,513.83 ADMw. This formula is to help offset some of the additional costs for experienced teachers.
- **Funding Ratio** – Next, is the funding ratio. This is the ratio of how much the state has to give school districts. The more money the state has, the higher the ratio. The less money, the smaller the ratio. Local revenues (property taxes, common school fund, county school fund) are offset to the SSF. If we receive more property taxes, our SSF will be offset by the increase. So we would receive less SSF. However, the more local revenue from school districts = higher funding ratio = more funding available to all school districts.
- **Transportation** – We are reimbursed 70% of our student home-to-school transportation expenditures currently estimated at \$980,000.

GRANTS & PROJECTS FUNDS

This is actually a group of sub-funds, each with its own special purpose.

SIA, COPS, Title I, Title II, , Title IV, M98 – High School Success Grant, IDEA Grant, Early Literacy, PreSchool Promise, Outdoor School, Food Service and more! – Most of the grants are accounted for in this fund. Grants are usually but not always a federal or state grant. They are usually granted for a specific purpose and can be used only for that purpose.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES FOR BOND INDEBTEDNESS

General Obligation Bonds are approved by voters for capital projects, the district can levy annually an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest for the bonded debt. To compute the tax rate, the levy amount is divided by the taxable assessed value of the property in the district. This tax rate is placed on the individual property tax accounts in the district. Our current tax rate for our general obligation bond is 1.1612% per

thousand of assessed value. If your home is assessed at \$300,000, you would pay \$348.
Thank you!!