

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
8550 NEW HOPE ROAD
P.O. BOX 160
JOSEPHINE COUNTY, MURPHY, OREGON

Resolution #Fiscal 12/13 - 5

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING "STRONG SCHOOLS, STRONG STATE"

WHEREAS, Our vision for Oregon includes a dynamic 21st-century school system that provides each student a world-class education that results in Oregon students becoming responsible and productive citizens of our community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, We support the state of Oregon making wise investments to create strong schools that serve as the foundation of a strong, prosperous state, now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, We support efforts to protect a well-rounded curriculum that meets the needs of Oregon's students by offering, art, music, physical education, career-technical training and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, We support funding for extended-day school programs that help boost student achievement and close the academic achievement gap for disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's political leaders have codified an ambitious "40-40-20" goal for Oregon's public education system to attain by the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's state budget has included a shrinking share of funds available to K-12 public education, from about 45% of the state budget in 2003-05 to about 38% in the proposed K-12 Budget for 2013-15.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Three Rivers School District Board of Directors pledges to join and support the efforts of the "**Strong Schools, Strong State**" campaign to prioritize education in our state investments by supporting adequate and stable funding that ensures a full academic school year for every child in Oregon, and prevents further program cuts, staff reductions or loss of school days while making the investments needed to enable our schools to start on a path to achieve Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.

ATTEST: _____
Superintendent/Clerk Board Chair

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

Passed _____ Date: _____
(Passed/Failed)

How would the potential 2013-2015 State School Fund Levels impact Oregon school districts?

\$6.750

Stability

\$6.895

Investment & Improvement

\$6.550

More Cuts

\$6.150

Crisis Budget

On top of hundreds of millions in cuts that school districts have already endured, with a \$6.15 billion State School Fund allocation, Oregon school districts would face:

- ▶ Additional, significant teacher and staff layoffs
- ▶ Even higher class sizes
- ▶ Fewer school days
- ▶ Elimination of additional valuable programs.

Although schools would continue to strive to deliver improved performance, this level of resources will directly impact student learning and result in flat or declining performance.

What the newspapers would say...
 "School budget means hundreds of teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, shortest school year in the nation"

Depending on local factors, districts would not be able to offer students the education experience they need to be successful and make progress toward performance goals.

At a funding level of \$6.55 billion, most Oregon districts would:

- ▶ Be unable to restore teachers and education support professionals
- ▶ Continue to face increased class sizes
- ▶ Continue to have a shortened school year
- ▶ Be unable to restore lost programs like art and music
- ▶ Still face additional, serious budget cuts.

Schools would continue to strive to deliver improved performance; some gains may be possible, but in general, results would likely remain about the same.

What the newspapers would say...
 "Legislative budget means schools face another round of painful cuts"

Most Oregon districts would be able to avoid further cuts to staffing or programs with a State School Fund allocation of \$6.75 billion.

In fact, some schools might be able to:

- ▶ Add back a few educators, or
- ▶ Add back school days, or
- ▶ Restore a few valuable programs like art and music
- ▶ However, others would still face some budget cuts.

With funding stability would come stability in performance, as well – and, potentially, some improvement.

What the newspapers would say...
 "School funding stabilizing; Parents give a sigh of relief"

Oregon schools would not be "made whole" at a funding level of \$6.895 billion, but most would be able to invest in:

- ▶ Additional teachers and staff
- ▶ A full school year
- ▶ Smaller class sizes
- ▶ Restoration of programs and electives like libraries, art and music
- ▶ Targeted investments aimed at early literacy, closing the achievement gap, higher graduation rates, or other improvement areas.

Bottom line: schools would be able to begin to deliver better student outcomes, and put Oregon on the path to meeting its 40-40-20 goal.

What the newspapers would say...
 "Oregon Legislature applauded for reinvesting in schools"

