



OSBA PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2015
Approved by the Legislative Policy Committee on September 4, 2014

The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) believes funding a strong system of public education is the best investment Oregonians can make to strengthen our economy, create thriving communities and improve the quality of life for every Oregonian.

In order to accomplish these goals, OSBA will introduce and support legislation which:

- **Supports Student Achievement:**

OSBA will actively promote legislation that leads to increased academic achievement for all students in the P-20 education enterprise. OSBA will work to ensure local school boards and communities control the implementation of programs and curriculum so that every student is college or career ready upon completion of their academic program. OSBA will support efforts to increase high school completion, lower the number of drop-outs, close academic achievement gaps and provide additional services to all students who need extra supports.

- **Provides Stable and Adequate Funding:**

OSBA will actively promote legislation to increase state and federal funding for the public school system to ensure adequate and stable funding for each school district and Education Service District (ESD) so that they may provide a quality public education for every student.

OSBA believes a balanced approach is necessary to increase education funding and to provide stable and adequate funding of Oregon's public school system. OSBA will actively promote legislation that strives for this balance by advocating for the restructure of Oregon's revenue system, promoting job creation and increasing opportunities for economic development across Oregon.

- **Empowers Locally Elected School Boards and Provides for Shared Accountability:**

OSBA will actively support legislation that gives locally elected boards the ability to make decisions in the best interests of their students and communities. OSBA will highlight the need for shared accountability to improve student achievement between state and federal policy makers, the business community, locally elected board members and the voters of Oregon.

- **Opposes Mandates:**

OSBA will actively oppose any federal or state imposed mandate that does not lead to increased academic achievement for students and is not accompanied with the necessary full funding to implement the mandate.



- **Promotes Capital Construction/Capital Improvements:**

OSBA will actively promote legislation that provides additional state level resources to school districts to help pay for capital construction/capital improvement needs, as well as deferred maintenance costs for all school facilities.

- **Contains Educational System Cost-Drivers:**

OSBA will actively promote legislation that provides relief for school districts from cost drivers that are beyond the control of the local school district or school board. These cost drivers include, but are not limited to, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), health insurance and any state or federally mandated program or service.