

Salem-Keizer School Board

Support Services Center – Room 2
2575 Commercial Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97302



AGENDA

February 23, 2016

Note: Signup sheets are available prior to the meeting if you wish to speak; please keep comments to three minutes. This meeting may be taped and televised by the media. If you have questions regarding the agenda, please contact Executive Administration at 503-399-3001.

5:30 PM – SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson

1. **AUDIENCE COMMUNICATIONS**

Patrons

a. Audience (testimony related to agenda items only).

2. **ACTION**

Superintendent Perry

a. * Action to Support Waiver Request to U.S. Department of Education regarding Allocation of Title I Grant Funds.

ADJOURNMENT

6:00 PM WORK SESSION – Room 2

Facilities Master Plan and Bond Update.

**ACTION TO SUPPORT WAIVER REQUEST TO
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REGARDING
ALLOCATION OF TITLE I GRANT FUNDS**

Background/Discussion

Each year, the Salem-Keizer School District receives Title I grant funds through the U.S. Department of Education’s Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These grant funds are used at schools with high numbers or high percentages of students from low-income families to help ensure that all students meet state academic standards.

ESEA requires Title I grants funds be allocated to any school with 75% or greater poverty level using the same per pupil allocation regardless of level (elementary, middle, high).

The District, with assistance from the Oregon Department of Education, is applying for a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, to adjust the current funding structure so that the greatest level of support from Title 1 funds is allocated to elementary schools. This is accomplished by differentiating the amount allocated at each level (elementary, middle, and high), allowing staff to provide a commensurate amount of per-pupil funding to address the specific needs found within each level.

Salem-Keizer School District has one of the most economically diverse student populations in Oregon with 61% of our students’ eligible for the Free or Reduced lunch program. While the minimum threshold for any school to receive Title 1 grant funds is a poverty rate of above 40%, the District, based on our demographics, allocates Title 1 grant funds to schools with a poverty rating of above 70%. The table below outlines how schools are impacted.

% of students eligible for Free/Reduced	Elementary	Middle	High
70% - 100%	22	5	3*
40% - 69%	13	3	3
39% or less	7	3	1

*Includes Roberts High School

As indicated in recent academic achievement reports, many of our elementary schools continue to perform below the average academic achievement scores found throughout the state of Oregon. In fact, of the ten lowest performing schools in the state of Oregon, five are within Salem-Keizer School District and are Title I schools. This is an important point as it highlights the high level of need at our elementary schools and the additional support needed to make certain that all students are meeting grade level academic expectations to ensure college and career readiness.

The purpose in seeking this waiver is to request the ability to fund elementary schools at a different per student allocation from those secondary schools with a poverty rate of 75% or greater. Through this adjustment, our goal is to increase the academic support to our elementary schools in order to accelerate the percentage of students meeting grade level benchmarks in reading and math, while reducing the amount of students requiring intensive academic interventions in elementary school and into secondary schools.

Board Action:

Staff recommends the School Board take action to support the waiver that staff is submitting to the U.S. Department of Education.