

Salem-Keizer Public Schools | District 24J

Our Vision: All students graduate and are prepared for a successful life.



State School Fund (SSF) and Sunsetting of Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER)

SKPS applauds Governor Kotek for releasing a proposed budget of \$9.9 billion for K-12, which is a significant improvement over the state budget office calculation of \$9.52 billion that would have been devastating to our students. However, \$9.9 billion will still result in significant reductions of staff and programs that directly serve and support our students.

Background

- SKPS employs over 4,821 staff in the general fund
- Over 80% of general fund is on salary and associated payroll costs
- Majority of SKPS general fund revenue comes from State School Fund
- Staff (licensed, classified, administrators) are the people who change lives for students
- Significantly short of the \$10.3 billion needed to maintain current service level (CSL)
- \$9.9 billion for the biennium will result in approximately **\$27 million in reductions** for the 23-24 budget and more for the 24-25 budget
- \$27 million funds nearly **280 teachers**

Instructional Impact of \$27 Million Reduction

- Positions will need to be reduced, increasing class size and limiting services to students
- Harms our ability to address the social, emotional, mental, and behavioral health needs of our students, which are the greatest they have ever been due to the long-lasting effects of the pandemic
- Reduces our ability to attract and retain a diverse and highly qualified teaching and support staff who represent and are invested in the communities where our students live
- Places our online school option at risk impacting over 1,100 students
- Reduction in extracurricular, before- and after-school programs
- Eliminates most professional development opportunities



Operational Impact

- Reduces our ending fund balance, contingency, and reserves to unhealthy levels
- Rollback in pandemic-related investments to create cleaner and healthier learning environments
- Eliminates our internet connectivity program for SKPS students and families

- Halts preventative and deferred maintenance funding
- Not able to sustain the technology investments and advancements made during the pandemic for our staff and students
- Does not support the inflationary pressures on salaries, utilities, fuel, technology
- District health services team at risk, which consists of nurses and school-based health assistants meeting the routine and sometimes complex medical needs of our students

ESSER Funding

The underfunding of K-12 at \$9.9 billion is compounded with the sunset of ESSER in September 2024 where significant ongoing pandemic-related obligations are currently funded to address unfinished learning, healthy learning environments, and the social, emotional, and mental health supports our students need now more than ever.

- SKPS will need to absorb **~\$50 million** in ESSER-funded positions and expenditures into the general fund to maintain critical staff, services, and programs that directly serve and support students still being impacted by the pandemic
- There are currently **170 staff positions** in ESSER that provide essential services to our students in things like health supports, mental health supports, class size reduction, etc.
- ESSER funded strategies include: 53 K-2 teachers to reduce class size, 34 health and safety FTE providing direct support to students, 5 middle school social workers, 19 FTE in mentors