



PORTLAND
Public Schools

Date: January 25, 2024

To: PPS Board of Education

From: Lisa Merrick, Senior Manager, Government Relations

Subject: Recommended Legislative Priorities for the 2024 Session

BACKGROUND

The Legislature will convene for the 2024 short session from February 5 to March 10. Only lasting 35 days, short sessions are designed to handle emergencies and to rebalance state budgets, which are adopted during longer sessions that occur during odd-numbered years. Given the short timeframe, short sessions are not well suited to manage complex policy bills.

KEY SESSION DATES

November 9, 2023: Deadline to introduce Legislative Measures

January 10-12, 2024: January Legislative Days (informational sessions held at the Capitol)

February 5, 2024: Legislative Session begins

February 7, 2024: Quarterly Revenue Forecast

March 10, 2024: Legislature adjourns

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

During the upcoming legislative session, the Legislature is positioned to address some significant issues including potential changes to Measure 110, housing production, wildfire relief, and winter road maintenance.

Given the recent PPS strike, the Legislature will also begin having conversations on education funding, specifically around the Quality Education Model. Conversations about broader structural changes to the State School Fund and Oregon's education funding system are expected to take place over the interim period leading up to the 2025 long session through workgroups convened by Governor Kotek's office.

Governor Kotek has called on the Legislature to approve a \$600 million investment on housing and homelessness next year, which will cover housing production and rental assistance costs.

She is also seeking funding for the Employment Related Day Care program as well as \$50 million in one-time funding for summer learning programs.

PREVIEW OF PROPOSED EDUCATION BILLS

Below is some high-level information about some of the education bills that are expected to move forward this session. More information about these bills and additional education legislation that is introduced will be provided to Board Directors regularly throughout the session.

- School Board transparency legislation: requires school boards to stream and post recorded meetings and meeting minutes online and allow for remote participation.
- Omnibus Senate Education Committee bill: includes but not limited to Quality Education Model (QEM) changes, merge TSPC and ODE, and technical changes to SB 283 (2023 Education workforce bill).
- Education finance bill: OEA sponsored legislation to make some small changes to the CSL calculation and cap ending school balances at 10%.
- Updates to SB 819 (Abbreviated Day legislation from 2023 session): technical changes brought forward by ODE and Senator Gelser Blouin to improve the bill's implementation.

RECOMMENDED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR PPS

- \$51 million in additional funding from the State School Fund for the 2023-25 biennium to preserve teaching position and classroom supports.
- \$50 million in statewide funding for high-quality summer 2024 programs.
- \$6 million in funding for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) and \$22 million for Early Intervention Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE).
- Legislation to establish a youth advisory committee, made up of members of each ESD region, at the Department of Education.
- Legislation to require the Oregon Department of Education to update their administrative rules to align with a federal USDA rule expanding the Community Eligibility Provision, this would enable more schools to offer school meals, free of charge, to all students.
- A direct \$500,000 allocation to PPS for planning, design, real estate professional services for Phase 3 Planning of a potential Prophet Educational Center relocation.
- Additional funding to provide robust academic and enrichment programming including instructional specialists and high dosage tutoring.
- Resources and policies that support the emotional and mental health needs of all students, including investments to expand, sustain, and diversify the youth behavioral health workforce.
- Legislation to remove the percentage cap (11%) on the amount of funds that are distributed from the State School Fund to school districts for students eligible for special education along with a higher level of funding for special education services.
- Investments in climate-resilient school infrastructure that can support communities during extreme weather events.

Note: Given that PPS is projected to have more time before hitting the statutory limit on its local option levy revenue collection, staff recommends moving forward the local option levy policy forward in the 2025 session, rather than the 2024 session as previously discussed. During the short session, the Government Relations team can coordinate an informational session on the PPS local option levy issue.

LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

Throughout the session, the Government Relations team will coordinate opportunities for the Board of Education and certain PPS staff members to engage with the Legislature and advocate for PPS's legislative priorities. The legislative engagement and advocacy plan will include a Board of Education lobby day and DSC and PPS student advocacy opportunities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Education adopt the Legislative Agenda for the 2024 Session.