

# Senate Republican Office

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## **Senate Republicans urge immediate passage of K-12 budget to give schools certainty**

Salem, OR – Following this week’s budget proposal by the Ways and Means Co-Chairs, Senate Republicans are calling for leadership to pass the K-12 education budget as soon as possible. They say this budget will give local school districts stability and certainty as they plan for the next two years.

“The clock is ticking for our local schools,” said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). “We have a budget that holds funding steady. To delay this process any longer is a disservice to our local classrooms.”

Soon after the release of the \$5.7 billion budget recommendation for K-12 education, some started calling for a delay in its passage. This delay will only cost local districts valuable planning time and turn Oregon classrooms into political pawns. In most cases districts must complete their budget work by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In past sessions the budget for local schools is often delayed until late June or early July, giving local districts little time to plan.

Senate Republicans see the \$5.7 billion funding level as a floor. Quick passage of this budget will let local school boards get to work. If, later in the budget process, additional resources can be indentified a supplemental budget can be passed.

“The Oregon legislature can set the precedent that funding schools before the 81<sup>st</sup> day of session can be done,” said Senator Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point).

For the last several legislative sessions Atkinson has pushed a bill to require lawmakers to fund K-12 education within the first 81 days of the session. Members of the Republican caucus were encouraged when the Co-Chairs announced earlier this week that the K-12 education budget would move quickly through the process.

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