



OEA

Legislative

Summary

2021 & 2022 SESSIONS

2022 Session Recap

Following two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, nobody was sure what to expect at the beginning of this year's short session in Salem. Traditionally, short sessions are used as an opportunity for the legislature to come together for just a few weeks and make technical fixes to already existing legislation and to address any urgent legislative needs for our state. OEA worked tirelessly to ensure that our elected officials knew that public education needed to be top of mind during the four-week session, and through our efforts we were able to secure several critical victories for Oregon's students, educators, and public schools and community colleges.

We began the session by publicly releasing our report on the education workforce crisis. OEA then worked with both the Senate and House Education Committees to develop an Education Workforce Recommendations Report full of potential legislative solutions that created a framework for our legislative priorities for the 2022 session.

Hundreds of OEA members spent time during the session to advocate for their students and their profession: providing testimony directly to lawmakers, participating in letter writing campaigns, calling their lawmakers to advocate for a bill, and sharing their stories and experiences about what it was like to be an educator during the pandemic with the public. Thanks to their hard work, every single OEA priority for the 2022 session was passed successfully.

These are enormous wins for Oregon students and educators, providing critical tools and resources to our K-12 public schools and community colleges and investing hundreds of millions of new dollars into Oregon's public education system. Even with the added pressures and chaos caused by COVID, members from around the state were able to work together to secure historic victories for public education.

2022 Legislative Victories

- **(HB 4030) K-12 Workforce Stabilization:** Creates recruitment and retention grants for K-12, streamlines substitutes entering the workforce, compensates substitutes and education assistants for training and fees, and improves educator recruitment.
- **(SB 1545) Higher Education Workforce Investments:** Invests \$15 million in community college workforce programs, \$10 million for credit for prior learning, and opens up \$95 million in grants that community colleges can apply for to bolster their CTE programs.
- **(SB 1572) Part-Time Faculty Loan Forgiveness:** Codifies that part-time faculty must be credited for 4.35 hours of work per credit of classroom instruction for purposes of qualifying for student loan forgiveness.
- **(HB 4026) Wildfire Stabilization:** Allocates \$25 million to stabilize the budget of the school districts most impacted by wildfires over the past two years.
- **(SB 1583) Federal Standardized Testing:** Codifies that school districts can only meet the federal minimum requirements of standardized testing and requires ODE to file a request for a waiver to the federal government to remove all remaining testing every year.
- **(HB 4124) Local Standardized Testing:** Implements extensive study of local standardized testing to develop statewide guidelines and best practices.
- **(SB 1522) Part-Time Faculty Health Care Expansion:** Simplifies requirements for part time faculty members to qualify for health care benefits by shifting the calculation to meet the .5 FTE requirement from a term-by-term basis to a year-over-year basis.
- **(SB 1546) Common School Fund:** State finalizes its purchase of Elliot State Forest for \$121 million, putting additional resources towards the Common School Fund. Legal representation for individuals and families navigating the immigration system.
- **(SB 1543) Universal Representation:** A Fair Shot priority. Legal representation for individuals and families navigating the immigration system.
- **(SB 1510) Transforming Justice:** A Fair Shot Priority. Ensuring our state's public safety systems work for marginalized communities by reducing deadly interactions with law enforcement and investing in culturally specific and trauma-informed training for probation and parole officers.
- **(HB 4002) Farmworker Overtime:** A Fair Shot Priority. Paying farmworkers for every hour they work.

Bills We Blocked

- ✘ Two attempts at increasing the cap on virtual charter schools;
- ✘ The extension of a costly corporate giveaway;
- ✘ Permanent cuts to the Corporate Activities Tax and Student Success Act.

2021 Session Recap

The 2021 legislative session was like no other in history. COVID public health restrictions meant that much like our schools, the state capitol and all advocacy happened in the virtual world. The six-month session ran during some of the most difficult days of the pandemic, through the transition to start in-person learning, and during some of the most contentious school board races our state has ever seen.

It was a challenge, but even in the middle of the pandemic, Oregon educators showed up to fight for their students and for each other.

While there was no in-person testimony this year, the good news is that online hearings meant that members who normally wouldn't be able to travel to Salem were able to testify remotely. And they did. Dozens of OEA members testified on our priority bills that increased school and college funding, supported communities through the pandemic, and protected educator salary and benefits.

Additionally, dozens of members participated in our virtual advocacy session to hear from about the critical issues facing the legislature and then take action on our top-priority issues. And during the six-month session, the government affairs team tracked and advocated on more than 700 bills, including a slate of proposals that were priorities for OEA to pass - or to kill.

And lawmakers listened. Through our advocacy, we were able to increase the K-12 budget by \$300 million from \$8.99 to \$9.3 billion. And we protected the revenues dedicated to the Student Success Act from attacks from corporate lobbyists. We pushed for - and got - a \$63 million increase to the community college budget and \$200 more for the Oregon Promise grants for students. We made class size a mandatory part of collective bargaining so that we have a voice on one of the most important factors for students to thrive. We were finally able to provide health-care to thousands of part-time faculty at our community colleges. We stopped every single cut to PERS and protected member vesting during COVID. We supported improvements to child care for Oregon families, stable, safe and affordable housing in communities, and improvements to Oregon's secure vote by mail system to make sure every vote counts.



2021 Legislative Victories

- **(SB 5514) Stabilizing School Funding:** Added \$300 million to initial State School Fund plan, raising the K-12 budget to \$9.3 billion.
- **(SB 495/SB 496) Expanded unemployment protections:** Extended unemployment benefits for members who lose work due to summer layoffs and seasonal work loss.
- **(HB 2906) Retirement support for qualified employees:** Overturned the redirect of retirement funds from members accounts for those who make less than \$40,000/year.
- **(SB 580) Class Size and Caseload:** Added Class Size and Caseload as a mandatory subject of collective bargaining for Title I schools.
- **(HB 3318) Educator Housing Crisis:** Secured 63 units of affordable housing for education employees in the state's most unaffordable region.
- **(HB 3073) Daycare reforms:** Passed Employment Related Daycare reform to better serve low-income and BIPOC families and to provide fair compensation for childcare providers.
- **(SB 551) Expanded access to healthcare:** Passed Part-time Faculty Health Care: allows part time faculty who qualify for PERS to get health care from one of their employers. Employer is reimbursed by state.
- **(SB 5528) Community College Funding:** Secured \$703 million (true current service level) for the Community College Support Fund. Up from the originally suggested \$640 million, for a gain of \$63 million.
- **(SB 712) Expanded state board representation:** Won right voting rights for representatives serving students, faculty and staff on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).
- **(SB 5528) Expanded Funding for Students:** Increased funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grants to \$200 million.
- **(HB 2590) Supporting Underrepresented Students in Higher Ed:** Established Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education.

Bills We Blocked

- ✘ Killed seven bills to exempt businesses from paying their fair share of corporate activities taxes, which would have cut Student Success Act funding.
- ✘ Stopped four bills that attempted to pull money out of public schools for vouchers, tuition tax credits, and voucher-like education savings accounts.
- ✘ Halted eight attempts to expand virtual charter schools.
- ✘ Foiled dozens of bills that aimed to create tax breaks for the highest income earners.
- ✘ Stopped two bills designed to suppress votes by limiting vote by mail.
- ✘ Stripped the worst and most ambiguous elements from a bill to gut seniority in favor of merit-based layoff

Senate Scorecard

	HB 4030	HB 5202	SB 1545	SB 1572	HB 4026	SB 1583	HB 4124	SB 1522	SB 1543	SB 1510	HB 4002	SB 1546	Votes Available	TOTAL	%	Stars
Anderson	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	8	67%	**
Armitage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Beyer	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	11	10	91%	****
Boquist	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	0	0	N/A	ZERO
Courtney	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Dembrow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
Findley	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	7	58%	**
Frederick	1	1	EX	1	1	1	1	EX	EX	1	1	EX	8	8	100%	*****
Gelser Blouin	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Girod	EX	EX	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	20%	ZERO
Golden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Gorsek	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Hansell	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	A	0	0	1	11	7	64%	**
Heard	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	0	0	N/A	ZERO
Jama	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Kennemer	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	8	67%	**
Knopp	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	8	67%	**
Lawrence Spence	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	100%	****
Lieber	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Linthicum	0	0	0	0	1	EX	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	9%	ZERO
Manning	1	1	1	1	1	EX	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	100%	****
Patterson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Prozanski	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Robinson	EX	EX	EX	1	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	1	1	N/A	ZERO
Sollman	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Steiner Hayward	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Taylor	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Thatcher	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	12	5	42%	*
Thomsen	0	A	0	0	1	EX	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	10%	ZERO
Wagner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****

House Scorecard

	HB 4030	HB 5202	SB 1545	SB 1572	HB 4026	SB 1583	HB 4124	SB 1522	SB 1543	SB 1510	HB 4002	SB 1546	Votes Available	TOTAL	%	Stars
Alonso Leon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
Bonham	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	17%	ZERO
Boshart Davis	0	EX	EX	EX	1	0	0	EX	EX	EX	0	EX	5	1	N/A	ZERO
Breese-Iverson	1	EX	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	5	45%	*
Bynum	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Campos	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Cate	0	0	0	EX	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	9%	ZERO
Dexter	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Evans	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Fahey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
George	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	5	42%	*
Gomberg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Goodwin	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	4	33%	*
Grayber	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Hayden	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	4	33%	*
Helm	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Hieb	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	7	58%	**
Holvey	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	12	10	83%	****
Hoy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Hudson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
Kropf	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Levy	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	7	58%	**
Lewis	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	12	6	50%	**
Lively	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Marsh	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
McLain	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Meek	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Moore-Green	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	6	50%	**
Morgan	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	17%	ZERO
Nathanson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
Nelson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****

House Scorecard, continued

	HB 4030	HB 5202	SB 1545	SB 1572	HB 4026	SB 1583	HB 4124	SB 1522	SB 1543	SB 1510	HB 4002	SB 1546	Votes Available	TOTAL	%	Stars
Neron	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	*****
Noble	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	2	17%	ZERO
Nosse	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	N/A	ZERO
Owens	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	5	45%	*
Pham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Prusak	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1	9%	ZERO
Rayfield	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Reardon	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	11	92%	****
Reschke	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	100%	****
Reynolds	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	5	42%	*
Ruiz	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Salinas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	4	33%	*
Sanchez	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Scharf	1	EX	EX	1	1	0	0	EX	0	EX	0	EX	12	4	33%	*
Schouten	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Smith, Greg	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	12	7	58%	**
Smith Warner	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	10	83%	***
Smith, D Brock	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	12	100%	****
Sosa	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Stark	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	12	12	100%	****
Valderrama	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	7	58%	**
Wallan	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	6	50%	**
Weber	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	12	100%	****
Wilde	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Williams	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Witt	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	12	12	100%	****
Wright	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	6	50%	**
Zika	EX	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	2	17%	ZERO

SCORED BILL SUMMARIES

HB 4030 (K-12 workforce stabilization)

A critical first step in the state's response to the workforce crises, HB 4030 did two key things. First, it earmarked \$78 million for recruitment and retention grants for K-12 employees, grants that will be distributed by ODE to districts as they bargain MOUs over the money. It comes out to about \$1,000 per employee in K-12. Second, the bill aims to help get more bodies into classrooms, either substitutes or educators coming from other states. It does this by streamlining background checks for substitutes entering the workforce, compensates substitutes and education assistants for training and fees, and improves educator recruitment.

HB 5202 (Summer Learning Investments)

A continuation of last year's summer programming supported by the state, this provided an additional \$150 million for summer school program grants, \$100 of which is earmarked for public schools specifically. Districts would be expected to match 25% of the resources for enrichment or academic programming, and then they could apply to the state for the other 75%.

SB 1545 (higher education workforce investments)

A massive investment in addressing the workforce crisis across many industries, OEA fought hard to secure funding for community colleges, often where folks get training and education for these jobs, such as nursing. This included a \$15 million investment in community college workforce programs, \$10 million for credit for prior learning, and \$95 million in grants that community colleges can apply for to bolster their CTE programs.

SB 1572 (part time faculty loan forgiveness)

For years, part time faculty in our community colleges have qualified for federal loan forgiveness but have been unable to access it due to complexity of the program, or through lack of responsiveness from their employers. This bill codifies that part time faculty must be credited for 4.35 hours of work credit hour of classroom instruction for purposes of qualifying for student loan forgiveness and builds on a bill from 2021 making supporting faculty through the process explicitly the responsibility of the employer.

HB 4026 (wildfire stabilization)

2020 saw some of the most devastating wildfires on record in Oregon. Hundreds of thousands of educators, students and their families were impacted. But four districts were hit incredibly hard. While there have been enrollment declines for various reasons in all districts - Covid being the main cause - these four districts saw incredibly larger drops due to displacement. This bill earmarks \$25 million to stabilize the budget of the school districts most impacted by wildfires over the past two years, to ensure that there are not further cuts while the communities rebuild.

SB 1583 (Ending State Standardized Testing)

Reducing or eliminating the use of summative assessments has been a priority of Oregon educators for years. Educators know that such assessments are a poor indicator of a student's knowledge or their academic growth, and that too often high stakes testing forces educators to spend time "teaching to the test" rather than meeting the unique needs of their classrooms. This first-in-the-nation bill ensures that the Oregon Department of Education administers standardized summative assessments at the minimum extent practicable - dramatically reducing standardized testing in Oregon's classrooms.

HB 4124 (Standardized Testing Audit)

The Oregon Department of Education has been directed to conduct a survey of all 197 school districts and any mandated testing. This audit will evaluate these local tests administered to students for things such as which student groups take it, how long does the test take, what is the cost associated, how often it's administered and how are the results and data used. The survey from this bill will help create statewide guidance for standardized tests and ensure that valuable instruction time is not taken away for onerous, high stakes testing that is not aimed at improved student learning. The bill also looks at student transfer records to ensure that educators are able to support new students in their schools.

SB 1522 (part time faculty health care expansion)

Part time faculty health care had been the big ask by our higher education members for years. However, the role out of the program this past fall was clunky as HR departments struggled to understand who qualified. This simplified requirements for part time faculty members to qualify for health care benefits by shifting the calculation to meet the .5 FTE requirement from a term-by-term basis to a year-over-year basis, expanding the program to cover more of OEA's members.

SB 1543 (Universal Representation)

Universal Legal Representation will improve access to justice and advance immigrant rights. The program will be flexible and able to respond to anticipated legalization programs or massive raids, a sudden influx of asylum seekers, or any other changes of the immigration system. Universal Legal Representation advances due process and access to justice for immigrant Oregonians by providing culturally sensitive, free immigration legal services to income-qualified Oregonians facing deportation. The program will have a major impact on access to legal support for immigrant Oregonians and is likely to notably decrease unjust deportations in Oregon.

SB 1510 (Transforming Justice)

Transforming Justice will reduce unnecessary interactions with law enforcement that increase risks of excessive force and violence, improve success for people on probation and parole, and fund services that reduce racial disparities prevalent in Oregon's criminal justice system.

HB 4002 (Farmworker Overtime)

For decades, Oregon's farmworkers haven't been paid fairly. This bill finally ends the exclusion of farmworkers from Oregon's overtime laws. This exclusion is part of the shameful legacy of racism as legislators from the South explicitly pointed out the "racial question" involved in overtime wages to farmworkers. Starting in 2023, farmworkers will start earning overtime pay after 55 hours of work, over the next few years overtime pay will begin after 40 hours of work like other Oregon workers.

SB 1546 (Elliot Forest purchase)

The Elliot State Forest has long been the center of a battle between loggers and environmentalists; however, schools have been caught in the middle as the Elliot State Forest was owned by the Common School Fund. To take our public education out of the debate, the Elliot Forest was sold by the Common School Fund to the state. This \$121 million was the second installment for the forest, putting additional resources towards the Common School Fund. And in turn, this will mean \$4-8 million more for our schools every year.

