

# Education

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## Summer Learning Programs, 9-12, K-8, Preschool, Childcare

- March 13, 2020, was the last day of full-school in Oregon classrooms as Covid-19 impacted children and youth. In a hearing of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education March 15, 2021, [verbal testimony](#) and [written materials](#) addressed Summer Learning for Oregon. [\\$250 Million Summer Learning and Care Package - ODE](#) and an additional [focus on preschool and childcare](#). This funding will be focused on existing, local community non-profits and school districts with some investments from the federal government being funneled through the General Fund.
- Summer Academic Support Grants (High School Students) – \$71.9 million. These grants would offer up to 75% of the estimated cost for school districts to serve up to 50% of its high school student population with a six week, four days a week course that enables them to make up any high school credits during the last two school years. The total estimate for this program is \$95.9 million, of which ODE would fund \$71.9 million (75% of program cost). Every school district with a high school (185 out of 197) would receive funding that is based on actual school year instructional and student transportation costs. ODE will provide an estimated amount of grant funding for each school district based on serving 50% of the high school population. This represents 89,743 students in grade 9 through 12.

- Summer Enrichment/Academic Program Grants (K-8 Students) – \$93.7 million. ODE will provide funds for school districts to offer extracurricular classes and/or activities for K-8 students to receive advanced academic instruction; get extra help for student learning; and/or discover new hobbies, interests and activities outside the classroom setting. The program will offer each school district a grant that will fund 75% of the estimated program cost of \$124.9 million. While the cost of these types of programs vary, research shows that high-quality and successful programs cost approximately \$1,200 per child for an eight-week program.
- School Activity Grants - \$40 million. In addition to funding administered through school districts and existing early learning programs, ODE will enter into a partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation by providing a \$41.2 million grant that allows for both summer activities for an estimated K-12 students, as well as additional support services for children birth to 5 and their families. ODE will target \$40 million of the grant for OCF to award Summer Activity Grants. These grants would help support enrichment programs that focus on activities that support learning that occurs outside the classroom. These services will be offered through public and non-profit organizations that provide community-based services for a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including but not limited to music, arts, and physical education.
- Parent and Child Support Grants - \$1.2 million. The remaining \$1.2 million of the OCF grant will be used, in partnership with ELD, to provide Parent/Child Support Grants to support an estimated 600 families with children, ages birth to 5, to participate in 12 weeks of parent-child summer programming. The services would support social emotional development and healthy attachment, and be delivered in-person in accordance with applicable COVID-19 practices.
- School Child Care Grants - \$30 million. General Fund/\$10 million Federal Funds. These grants will provide a complement to the Summer Enrichment/Academic Program Grant for low-income

families with K-5 students that wish to participate in the programs, but would need wrap around child care to do so.

- Early Learning Programs - \$12 million. General Fund/\$11.2 million Federal Funds To help support additional learning and child care for Oregon children from birth to age five, the ELD will use its existing portfolio of programs to offer additional programming. This includes the Oregon Prekindergarten Program, Preschool Promise, and the Early Childhood Equity Fund. The ELD will increase current grants and contracts for these programs by \$8.0 million, which will result in 2,900 summer slots for children from birth to age 5 for a programming period that ranges between 8 to 12 weeks, depending on the program model. In addition, ELD will increase the Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Program (KPI) contracts with Early Learning Hubs by \$4.0 million to expand kindergarten transition programming to reach an additional 2,000 children and families and schools statewide. The ELD also proposes utilizing Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds received through the federal stimulus act to increase its existing agreement with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) for the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) Program. The ELD will provide \$8.2 million (\$300,000 for ODHS administration) that will enable ODHS to expand the ERDC program to more providers to participate in ERDC, increase supports for providers serving children with special needs, and serve additional families, beginning this summer.

Governor Kate Brown, Senate President Peter Courtney, and House Speaker Tina Kotek urged support for their \$250 million Summer Learning and Child Care package to help students and children learn, thrive, and have fun this summer. “Students need academic enrichment opportunities this summer--there is no question. But to help our children get back on track, we also must make sure we are attending to their most basic needs,” said Governor Brown. “That is true now, as students return to classrooms for the fourth quarter of the school year, and it is something we must continue to address in the summer months.

This summer learning and child care package will set our kids up for success by letting them be kids again, in environments that foster creativity, learning, and joy.”

“Our children are being really affected by this pandemic,” said Senate President Courtney. “We’ve introduced these summer programs because it has never been more urgent to invest in our kids. This summer, we want them to go outside. We want them to have fun. We want them to learn. We need to support their mental and physical health. These programs will get our kids back out doing the things they love.

“We have the opportunity this summer to support our children and families in recovering from the educational and emotional losses of the past year living in a global pandemic,” said House Speaker Kotek. “We all know stories of the stress this last year has caused for our kids: more emotional distress, more depression, and more anxiety as routines have been upended. The challenges have been greater for low-income families, children with special needs, single-parent households, and communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Families desperately need this funding package for the summer.”

- Governor Brown's full prepared remarks are available [here](#).
- Senate President Courtney's full prepared remarks are available [here](#).
- House Speaker Kotek's full prepared remarks are available [here](#).
- [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#), version 6.0 was released March 15 with updated guidelines for moving toward classroom learning in the near future.

## Committee Deadlines, Bills

Friday, March 19, was a critical deadline for this legislative session. A committee “work session” (WRK, PPW) must be on the calendar for a bill to move forward, otherwise the bills are “dead” in most committees. Some bills without “work sessions” may receive a courtesy hearing, but

will not move in this session. Note the “assigned measures” in each committee for WRK or PPW notations to determine what is still in play: [House Committee on Education](#), [Senate Committee on Education](#), and [House Committee on Early Childhood](#). If no dates appear beside a bill number in “assigned measures” it is likely dead for the session—more than half of the bills in some committees. Also note that if the word “study” appears in the bill overview, when a computer mouse is held over the bill number, then that bill might likely have been a placeholder available if needed for a “gut and stuff” concept. Some of these have gone unused. We’ll sort out the bills still in play as the session continues. Ways and Means are not restricted by the bill deadlines, [Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education](#)

### Other Insights on Education

In addition to watching hearings on OLIS and writing weekly Legislative Reports, we reach out (even during Covid isolation) to allies and coalitions also working on education improvements. If you have a passion for children, you may wish to research these links: [Our Children Oregon](#), [The Early Childhood Coalition](#), [Foundations for a Better Oregon](#) (formerly Chalk Board), [Coalition of School Administrators](#), [Oregon School Board Administrators](#), [Oregon Education Association](#), Oregon [Department of Education](#), [Early Learning](#), [Higher Education HECC](#).

Volunteer? Contact Chris Vogel,