

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI  
Governor



## ANSWERING THE OREGON CHALLENGE

### EDUCATION

**Problem:** Oregon faced drastic budget cuts to education during the 2001-03 recession: class size grew, course options reduced, tuition at universities and community colleges increased, pricing many students out of a post-secondary education.

The Governor's commitment over the last six years to education – from pre-K through college – has delivered critical reinvestments that provide educational and economic opportunity for all Oregonians at every stage of their life. But more needs to be done, and the Governor is committed to continuing the reinvestment in education at every level.

#### **Solution:**

- ***Ensuring children enter school ready to learn:*** The Governor is committed to providing funding to ensure all eligible three- and four-year-olds in Oregon have access to Head Start.
- ***Providing a high-quality K-12 education:*** The Governor will continue the necessary reinvestments that give our schools the funding needed to provide our students a quality education, which relies on highly-trained teachers and administrators. The Governor will increase investments in proven professional development programs for Oregon's educators.
- ***Preparing high school students for work or college:*** With the Governor's support, the state increased the high school graduation requirements so that students are better prepared to enter the workforce or attend college. The Governor aims to train more math and science teachers to help students master the more rigorous coursework.
- ***Expanding opportunities for students of all ages:*** Community colleges and Career and Technical schools shape their education and training courses to the needs of Oregon businesses and serve both traditional and non-traditional students. The Governor is focused on enrollment growth in high demand areas to ensure skills training for emerging industries, such as clean technologies and renewable energy.
- ***Helping students, families afford a college education:*** Continuing the investment from last session, the Governor will fully fund the new Shared Responsibility Model financial aid program – where students, families and government all pay -- so more Oregonians can afford a post-secondary education.
- ***Creating 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments:*** The Governor will continue to invest in capital construction for Oregon's community colleges and universities so students have access to the most updated classrooms, labs and facilities.