

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor



ANSWERING THE OREGON CHALLENGE

EDUCATION

Problem: Oregon was faced with drastic budget cuts to education during the 2001-03 recession, increasing class sizes, reducing course options, including art and music, and increasing university and community college tuitions, pricing many students out of post-secondary education. Over the last four years, the Governor has made education at every level – pre-K through college – the top priority and has started the reinvestment to provide educational opportunity for all Oregonians at every stage of their life.

But more needs to be done to ensure all kids enter first grade ready to learn, high schools students have the classes they need to succeed in work or post-secondary education, older workers have access to critical skills training, and that every Oregonian who wants to and qualifies can afford to attend a community college or university.

The Solutions: The Governor is committed to continuing the reinvestment in education at every level, so that we are reducing class sizes, expanding course selections, implementing new high school standards, ensuring all students can afford college, providing workforce training, and that Oregon's National Guard men and women have the support to pursue a higher degree.

- Head Start – The Governor is committed to providing funding to ensure all eligible three-and four-year-olds in Oregon have access to Head Start.
- K-12 – The Governor will continue reinvesting to meet the goal of full funding based on the Quality Education Model, which determines the amount of funding needed to meet the state's quality education goals.
- Teacher Training – The Governor will increase investment for professional development for Oregon's educators, including new teacher/administrator mentoring program and training more math and science teachers to help student succeed with new high school graduation requirements.
- Community Colleges – The Governor is focused on strategic enrollment growth in high demand areas, including increased investment in Career/Technical Education programs to ensure skills training for emerging industries, such as clean technologies and renewable energy.
- Student Aid – Continuing the investment from last session, the Governor's budget will fully fund the new Shared Responsibility Model financial aid program so all Oregonians can afford a post-secondary education.
- GI Bill – The Governor wants to provide members of the National Guard with a monthly stipend on top of their tuition benefits if they attend a post-secondary institution to help families make ends meet. The stipend would be at least \$500/month for full time students and at least \$250/month for part-time students.
- Capital Construction – The Governor will continue to invest in capital construction for Oregon's community colleges and universities so students have access to the most updated labs and facilities.