



THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

"Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway."
John Wayne

February was a month of meaningful connections and well-deserved recognition for education leaders across the state. From the Winter Conference in Salem, hosted in partnership with OASBO, to the Multilingual and English Learner Conference in Eugene, these gatherings provided invaluable opportunities to collaborate, learn, and celebrate the incredible work happening in our schools.

We are honored to recognize outstanding leadership through COSA and its associations. At the Winter Conference, Sabrina Woods of Corvallis received the OACOA Achievement in Excellence Award, recognizing her extraordinary dedication to students, families, and the broader education community.

A few weeks later, at the Multilingual and English Learner Conference, Carmen Xiomara Urbina of Eugene 4J was named the

2025 Lau Leadership Impact Award recipient. Urbina's lifelong advocacy for multilingual and immigrant students was celebrated, with colleagues describing her as a "leader of leaders" who continually faces challenges head-on while paving the way for others to follow.

Looking ahead, we invite you to help us recognize more inspiring leaders. Nominations are now open for the **Jerry Colonna Lifetime Achievement Award** and the **Colt Gill Leadership Award**, honoring individuals who have made a lasting impact on education in Oregon. Nominations close April 1st—use the links above to submit a nomination for a deserving colleague.

On behalf of COSA, we want to thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to Oregon's students. Oregon is stronger when we row together.



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Finding Common Ground in Challenging Times

As education leaders, we know firsthand the meaningful and transformative work happening in Oregon's public schools each and every day. While headlines often highlight our struggles, the reality is that public education remains the great equalizer—creating opportunities, fostering growth, and leveling the playing field for students from diverse backgrounds. The lessons of the pandemic reinforced what we've always known: belonging is essential. Now more than ever, our public schools serve as the great connector, bringing together students, families, and educators in pursuit of a shared future. Despite the negativity that dominates the national landscape, Oregon has repeatedly demonstrated that when we put kids first, we find our way forward.

At a time when division and uncertainty seem overwhelming, our strength lies in coming together. The concerns we see in our schools and communities are real, but so is our collective commitment to fostering understanding, inclusion, and hope. Purposeful, engaging conversations—rooted in our common purpose—remain our most powerful tool. When we seek common ground, we strengthen not only our schools but the very fabric of our communities. We don't have to look far to find shining examples of engaged citizens who are the proud products of Oregon's public schools. As we navigate the months ahead, let's continue to center our work around students, lean into the conversations that unite us, and remember that a strong public education system means a stronger Oregon for all.

In Leadership,
Krista

We believe in less paperwork and more leadership.

COSABot is a revolutionary AI platform designed for school administrators—providing them with a trusted space for AI resources, a vast prompt library to streamline tasks, and closed chatbots that transform feedback processes.

This isn't about replacing human leadership; it's about freeing up time and bringing humanity to the table through mentorship, vision, and impact.



The March Economic and Revenue Forecast holds good news for state legislators. The key number we are watching is the net General Fund and Lottery resources available for the 2025-27 biennium – this number was up \$267.5 million from the December forecast.

The Forecast showed slight decreases of \$109 million in Net General Fund and Lottery Resources for the 2023-25 biennium (compared to the December 2024 Forecast), mostly due to increased expenditures made during the December 2024 Special Session. The projected personal kicker decreased slightly to \$1.733 billion and the projected corporate kicker decreased slightly to \$993.1 million. Corporate kicker funds will be required to be spent on K-12 education during the next budget cycle (2025-27).

Again, growth in projected general fund and lottery revenues in 2025-27 is modest, but positive, at \$267.5 million. For the first time, projected net General Fund and Lottery resources for the 2025-27 biennium have topped \$40 billion (\$40.138 billion to be exact.)

The forecast shows the state's reserve accounts decreased by about \$200 million (Education Stability Fund, Rainy Day Fund, and Cash Reserves) and are currently projected to reach \$5.502 billion at the end of the 2023-25 biennium. Specifically, the Education Stability Fund is projected to have \$1.009 billion, the Rainy-Day Fund is projected to have \$1.906 billion, and cash reserves are \$2.586 billion – these are equivalent to 19.8% of the General Fund Budget. Please note those cash reserves will be rolled over into the 2025-27 biennium and are included in projected revenues for the next budget cycle.

It is worth repeating that Oregon is in a very strong position to weather even a significant economic downturn. Additionally, the Corporate Activity Tax forecast for the 2025-27 biennium (which is the funding source for the Student Success Act) saw a small dip in projected revenue – a decrease of \$9.5 million compared to the December Forecast.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Even with the positive revenue news, K-12 advocates still need to make a clear and convincing case to invest in our public schools to meet the increased, and increasingly complex, needs of our students in the 2025 Session. There are significant needs and requests for investments in affordable housing and homeless services, mental health and addiction programs, wildfire fighting capacity, and other critical state services.
- Your advocacy for increased funding for SPED in four key areas (raising the 11% cap, increasing the High-Cost Disability reimbursement, and fully funding RIS and EI/ECSE) has been impactful and legislators clearly understand that our SPED funding is insufficient and inequitable. Please continue to prioritize this messaging above all else when you meet with legislators.
- Even more than usual, the budget process during the 2025 Session will be a marathon and not a sprint. Legislators are rightfully wary about the significant uncertainty at the federal level as we await potential changes to Medicaid funding, education funding, and a host of other potential budget impacts. Final decisions on budgets, including the State School Fund, are not likely to be made until after the June Revenue Forecast is released in late May.

Upcoming Professional Learning

MARCH

When the Heat is On (Webinar)

APRIL

Addressing Informal Removals (Webinar)

Small Schools Conference

MAY

Oregon Children and Youth Behavioral Health Summit

JUNE

Seaside



Pro tip: Reserve lodging now!



KEEP YOUR COOL WHEN THE HEAT IS ON!

So much of our job success depends on the strength of our communication. This course will increase our communication skill set and help navigate the tricky conversations that are guaranteed to come our way.

Together, we will explore practical strategies to ensure you remain calm when things get heated, and help others catch that calm from you as you work towards resolution. We will apply communication strategies to de-escalate and diffuse potentially explosive situations, as well as discuss ways to avoid escalation in the first place.

Additionally, we share a number of practical and immediately applicable strategies to build and repair connection in these increasingly divisive times. Learn strategies and tools today that you can use tomorrow!

- Enter into difficult conversations with increased skill and confidence
- Learn practical ways to remain calm when things get heated - and help others catch your calm
- Explore tools to defuse potentially explosive situations, and how to avoid escalation in the first place
- Leave with immediately applicable strategies to build and repair connection in these increasingly divisive times

[Learn more and register here!](#)

UNLOCK YOUR PRINCIPAL TOOLKIT!

[Bookmark the link above to stay up to date on principal resources!](#)



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COSA Partner Programs Powering Student Success

COSA is partially supported by Partners that provide many important goods and services for education. The Collaborative Corner will feature partner highlights and resources in each monthly communication.



Closing the literacy gap in Oregon is more than possible.

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QR code: Lexia Oregon

Lexia invites you to Science of Reading Week, March 3-6, which includes a week of FREE webinars with actionable advice to accelerate literacy learning with evidence-based instruction. We've put together an incredible lineup of experts, innovators, and advocates, including extra-special guest Zaretta Hammond.

Author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain*, Zaretta Hammond is a teacher, researcher, and ed consultant who specializes in CRP and equity-driven literacy practices. She works tirelessly at the intersections of instruction, equity, and literacy.

[Learn More and Register Here!](#)