

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 02-091

Urging the State of Oregon to Provide Adequate Funding for Public Education

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. We believe that all Oregon's K-12 students should have access to a high quality public educational program that provides:
 - The academic foundation for students to become independent, productive citizens;
 - Increased livability of our communities;
 - A stronger, local and statewide economy;
 - Greater prosperity for all citizens; and
 - Healthy, happy families.
- b. Children in Multnomah County and around Oregon deserve educational opportunities even in times of economic challenges, and
- c. Reduced educational opportunities for today's children will have profound effects on Multnomah County and the rest of the state.
- d. Multnomah County is committed to supporting public schools and has demonstrated that support through our many partnerships, services and programs to school aged children and their families.
- e. Quality and adequately funded schools help ensure that students will be better able go on to higher education opportunities and better prepared for employment – which, in turn lessens the likelihood of a student ending up in the costly criminal justice system.
- f. Multnomah County is the principle provider of public safety and human, safety-net services. We have already felt the impact of state reductions and local revenue shortfalls to our essential services, and
- g. Without adequate funding for public education, we can expect in increased need for public safety and human services.
- h. School districts throughout Multnomah County, either have already made difficult budget cuts for the coming school year, or are in the process of making them now;
- i. The defeat of Ballot Measure 13, the new State revenue forecast, and other economic factors have resulted in a shortfall of approximately \$880 million to the state's budget;

- j. This current budget shortfall could result in an additional \$220-\$400 million in cuts to Oregon schools – significantly impacting the 160 schools and 83,000 students in Multnomah County’s seven school districts.
- k. The Governor has announced his intention to call a special session of the Legislative Assembly this month to address the budget shortfall;
- l. The Governor and the Oregon Legislature have a constitutional responsibility to adequately funding schools without adversely impacting other essential public services,
- m. Given the nature of the state’s fiscal condition, the Governor and the Legislature must seriously consider increasing revenue, now therefore

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

That we, the members of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, strongly urge the Governor and the Legislature to demonstrate their commitment to public schools and human services by ensuring that the state’s budget is rebalanced *without additional cuts* to Oregon’s public schools and human services.

ADOPTED this 13th day of June 2002.




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney