

Supporting Oregon's Public University Students



2023 PUSF Budget Talking Points

What is the Public University Support Fund?

The Public University Support Fund (PUSF) is the primary fund for state support of operational expenses at Oregon's public universities.

How much of an investment does the Legislature need to make in the PUSF?

\$1.05 billion

Why does the PUSF need a \$1.05 billion investment?

Oregon is 45th in the nation for state funding per full-time equivalent student. Funding the Public University Support Fund at \$1.05 billion is a stability budget to make higher education more attainable for every student by:

1. Ensuring universities can continue to provide important wraparound services for an increasingly diverse student body
2. Relieving tuition pressures on students by moving Oregon toward the national average for state funding per student
3. Allowing universities to keep pace with high inflation
4. Keeping tuition from increasing beyond 5% at most universities

Talking Points:

- A PUSF of \$1.05 billion is a stability budget for public universities.
- As we come out of the pandemic, students have greater needs than ever before. This budget helps universities to continue meeting these needs by stabilizing funding for effective services and support for students.
- It is critical for the state to support investments that continue wraparound services, such as financial aid, academic support, career development, and basic needs support— including food and housing assistance—to meet the growing needs of our increasingly diverse student bodies.
- Universities are doing more for diverse students with fewer resources: universities serve more students through to completion, including BIPOC students and an increasingly diverse student population, despite having fewer resources than in other states.
- Rising costs of higher education and student debt remain significant concerns that need to be addressed. Oregon ranks near the bottom of the nation—45th—for spending per student at 4-year public institutions. A \$1.05 billion budget allows public universities to minimize the burden on students to pay for growing costs and inflation and make higher education more attainable for every student.
- Public universities are critical to the Oregon economy and even more vital to our future economy. For Oregon to prosper, the state must look to the future by investing in its students.