Office of the Governor
State of Oregon

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-28

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BEND-LA PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND HIGH DESERT EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT DUE TO SILVER RAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

WHEREAS, under ORS 401.165 the Governor by proclamation may declare a state of emergency after determining that an emergency has occurred or is imminent.

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2026, a human-caused disaster at Silver Rail Elementary School in Bend resulted in multiple fatalities and serious injuries, as well as trauma and suffering for all impacted.

WHEREAS, the tragedy has placed extraordinary demands on the Bend-La Pine School District and the High Desert Education Service District, including trauma recovery, continuity of instruction, student and staff safety, facility considerations, and providing sustained supports for students and staff.

WHEREAS, during a state of emergency, the Governor has authority to suspend provisions of any order or rule of any state agency, if the Governor determines and declares that strict compliance with the provisions of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder or delay mitigation of the effects of the emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, TINA KOTEK, Governor of the State of Oregon, by virtue of the authority vested in me under ORS 401.165, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency exists in the Bend-La Pine School District and the High Desert Education Service District, effectively immediately.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) shall coordinate necessary access to state resources necessary to assess, alleviate, respond to, mitigate, and/or recover from conditions caused by this emergency in the Bend-La Pine School District and the High Desert Education Service District.

2. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) shall provide all necessary assistance to the Bend-La Pine School District and the High Desert Education Service District, including providing necessary waivers, including Division 22 Education Standards, instructional time requirements, and average daily membership reporting, as necessary, to support administrative flexibility, and support the immediate and long-term educational recovery needs.

3. This determination of emergency is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. It is limited to the use of state resources and personnel required by the emergency, to request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact if needed, and to allow state agencies to suspend provision of any order or rule of the agency if compliance with the provisions of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder or delay mitigating the effects of the emergency.

4. This declaration is limited to the areas served by the Bend-La Pine School District and the High Desert Education Service District.

5. Duration: This order shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2027, unless extended or terminated sooner by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 26th day of October, 2026.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE