

**Docket Item:**

October Legislative Update

*Decennial Redistricting*

The Legislative Assembly met in special session at the end of September for constitutionally required redistricting. This process was delayed this year due to a delay in the release of population data from the US Census Bureau, and the Oregon Supreme Court allowed the legislature a revised deadline of September 27<sup>th</sup> to complete the process.

The process concluded with the adoption of congressional and state legislative maps signed into law by the Governor. This was not without some controversy. Uncertainty over the ability of the legislature to maintain a quorum for the session, combined with COVID-related precautions, led to the cancellation of legislative committee schedules. While HECC staff was scheduled to present on financial aid, wildfire workforce, and educational appropriations topics, these meetings did not take place.

The addition of a 6<sup>th</sup> congressional district in Oregon, which becomes effective Jan 3, 2023 upon the swearing in of the 118<sup>th</sup> US Congress, calls into question the Commission's membership statute. Under current law (ORS 350.050) five members of the Commission must be "from each of the five congressional districts in this state." Legislation will be required to alter this provision in the near future, potentially as part of a 2023 session bill.

*Joint Public Education Appropriations Committee Meeting*

Once a biennium, pursuant to an Oregon constitutional requirement, the Joint Committee on Public Education Appropriations meets to consider whether the total of funds in the state system of public education meets quality goals established by law.

Article VIII, Section 8, Adequate and Equitable Funding, provides in part:

*(1) The Legislative Assembly shall appropriate in each biennium a sum of money sufficient to ensure that the state's system of public education meets quality goals established by law, and publish a report that either demonstrates the appropriation is sufficient, or identifies the reasons for the insufficiency, its extent, and its impact on the ability of the state's system of public education to meet those goals.*

Though the higher education system lacks an equivalent to the K-12 oriented Quality Education Model, there are a number of sources for goals for the state system of higher education. ORS 350.014 details the state 40/40/20 goal. ORS 350.009 provides for fundamental goals of higher education. ORS 350.001 to .005 detail various legislative findings about the higher education system. Finally, ORS 350.018 provides for the adult attainment goal.

In a presentation this week, staff will provide an analysis of the sufficiency of appropriations toward meeting these goals, and will tell the legislature in a [presentation](#) that Oregon's appropriations do not allow underrepresented students to fully participate in higher education, and are inadequate to meet the state's goals and needs.



*Task Force on Underrepresented Student Success*

Staff continue to prepare for the launch of the legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education, a legislative work group modeled after the process used for the K-12 Student Success Act, and established by [HB 2590 \(2021\)](#). No action can be taken until the Speaker and Senate President appoint members, and this has yet to occur. In the meantime, staff are holding biweekly preparation sessions, and are meeting with stakeholders regularly to lay the groundwork for a successful series of discussions.

**Staff Recommendation:**

For discussion and informational purposes only.