

HECC 2025 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY: Key Postsecondary Education Budget and Policy Bills

August 2025



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2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

This Legislative Report provides an overview of a selection of key investments and bills approved during Oregon's 2025 Legislative Session pertaining to postsecondary education and workforce development in Oregon and tracked by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The HECC is a state commission and agency dedicated to a future in which all people benefit from the economic, civic, and cultural impact of high-quality postsecondary education, training, and workforce development. The HECC's statutory authorities include advising the Oregon Legislature and the Governor on higher education policy, and the development of biennial budget recommendations for public postsecondary education and workforce training in Oregon.

The 83rd Legislative Assembly convened on January 22, 2025, and adjourned Sine Die on June 27, 2025. The HECC budget presentation materials and legislative testimony are available on our [2025 Legislative Resources web page here](#). This work could not be accomplished without the engagement and collaboration of our institution and community partners.

This was a challenging legislative session. Predictions that the state would have little new revenue against unavoidable increases in certain expenses largely held true. Additional budget risks due to actual and anticipated federal actions also cast a shadow over the budget process. This largely tied the hands of policymakers, with those in charge of budget writing sending signals from the very start of session that requests for new funding and new programmatic activity would be unlikely to find success.

The result for HECC, as well as the higher education and workforce development sectors, is essentially a current service level budget, and little in the way of new policy and programming. As veterans of state higher education budgeting are aware, current service level often underestimates the actual cost of maintaining programs and services. This budget will place stress on higher education institutions and learners as institutions consider how to balance budgets, and students deal with impacts on tuition, financial aid, and campus services.

Because of the difficult revenue environment, the legislature did not authorize several programs or program funding increases included in the Governor's Recommended Budget that HECC had sought, including new funding for behavioral health workforce initiatives, pre-apprenticeship programs, and financial aid.

However, lawmakers were able to make some small, yet still important budget adjustments. They reauthorized Future Ready Oregon to continue into the next biennium and provided HECC with the authority needed to continue investing in the modernization of certain agency systems. The legislature also provided HECC with two new positions focusing on direct admissions and transfer, and continued funding for benefits navigators at each campus.

Even though the Legislature did not agree on a sustainable revenue source for wildfire mitigation activities, it nonetheless awarded the Oregon Conservation Corps \$5m to continue to provide opportunities for young adults, which allows the program to continue operating while further work on permanent wildfire funding is done, which will hopefully include ongoing funding for the Corps.

As usual, lawmakers were able to be generous with investments to facilities, providing colleges and universities with over \$300m in bond funding to support infrastructure improvements. This continues a recent trend of significant investment in campus facilities, bringing those facilities into the modern era. As part of this approval, the community colleges saw the statutory cap on their per-project funding increase 50 percent, from \$8m to \$12m.

On the policy side, thanks to legislative authorization, students pursuing short-term credentials, both credit and non-credit bearing, will for the first time be eligible to receive Oregon Opportunity Grants for qualifying programs. In addition, private universities will be able to participate in the state's direct admissions program once that program is fully launched. These are changes that will improve access to postsecondary education for Oregon students.

The HECC thanks Governor Tina Kotek and all members of the Oregon Legislature for their engagement on critical issues of higher education, and their commitment to the vital importance of higher education investments to foster economic mobility and successful futures for all Oregonians.

The HECC is grateful for the engagement of our PK-20 education and workforce partners, including: the Oregon Department of Education, leadership of Oregon's seven public universities and 17 community colleges, the nine local workforce development boards, the Workforce and Talent Development Board, Oregon Community College Association, Oregon Council of University Presidents, the Oregon Alliance for Independent Colleges and Universities, Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, and others. HECC staff and partners coordinated and collaborated with partners throughout the session on legislative and budgetary proposals, including bill analyses, presentations and testimony, fiscal impact statements, and other activities.

HECC 2025-27 LEGISLATIVELY ADOPTED BUDGET (LAB) OVERVIEW

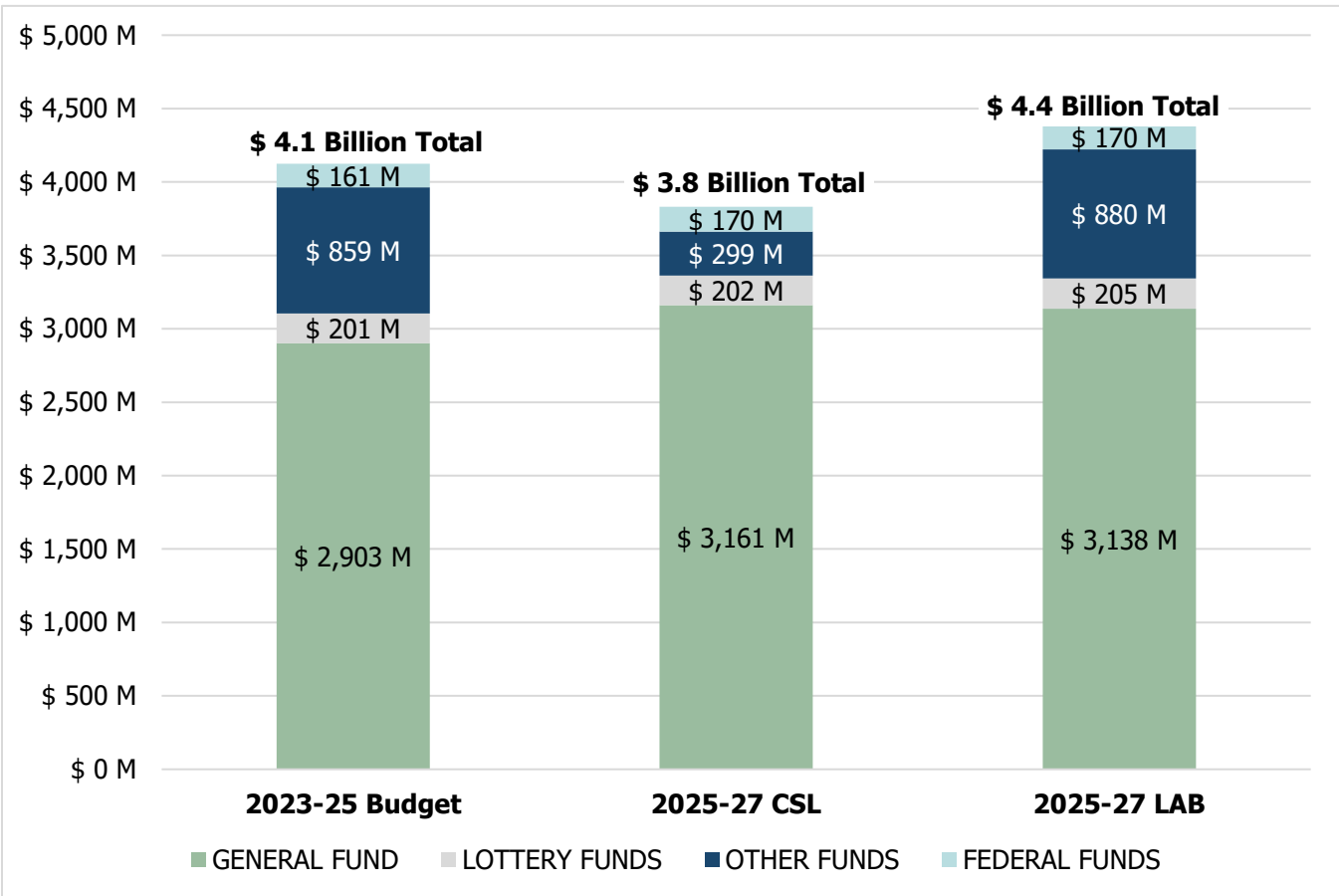
INTRODUCTION

This section summarizes key budget outcomes in the 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The HECC budget includes funding for: Oregon’s 17 community colleges; Oregon’s seven public universities and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU); state financial aid and student access programs; capital bonding authority for the public institutions; Oregon’s nine local workforce development boards; workforce and state service programs; and HECC agency operations.

The charts in this section compare HECC’s budget from the recently concluded biennium (2023-25 Legislatively Approved Budget, or LAB, plus all legislative actions that took place during the 2023-25 biennium) to the Current Service Level (CSL) budget—an estimate of what is needed to maintain HECC’s current services and activities—and the 2025-27 LAB. HECC’s budget is comprised of four fund types: General Fund, Lottery Funds, Federal Funds, and Other Funds.

Please note that all budget figures presented in this report as of its publication are unaudited. The report will be updated in Fall 2025 to reflect audited figures.

OVERALL HECC BUDGET



The 2023-25 Budget includes the 2023-25 LAB plus all legislative actions during the 2023-25 biennium.

The 2025-27 Current Service Level (CSL) is the level of funding required for HECC to continue its ongoing operations and continued support of institutions, programs, and partners adjusted for inflation. It does not include one-time funding, capital funding, or programs that have been phased out.

FINANCIAL AID INVESTMENTS

The OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT (OOG) is Oregon's largest state-funded, need-based grant program for college students. The grant provides funding to more than 30,000 Oregon resident students each year. The OOG is funded at \$329.4 million in Total Funds, which is at CSL.

The OREGON PROMISE helps cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates and GED® test graduates. It is funded at CSL, which is \$47.3 million in General Fund.

The OREGON TRIBAL STUDENT GRANT provides funding for eligible Oregon tribal students toward the cost of attendance at eligible Oregon colleges and universities. The grant is intended to cover the average cost of attendance after all federal and state grants/scholarships have been applied. The program is funded at CSL, which is \$26 million in General Fund.

The OREGON NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (ONGSTA) PROGRAM provides funding toward undergraduate tuition and certain fees at eligible Oregon postsecondary institutions for current Oregon National Guard Members. The program is funded at CSL, which is \$5.5 million in General Fund.

The ASPIRE PROGRAM helps prepare Oregon students to become career and college ready by offering education, resources, and mentoring. This program is funded at CSL, which is \$2.2 million in General Fund.

STATE INVESTMENTS IN FINANCIAL AID

Abbreviations: Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB), Current Service Level (CSL), Total Funds (TF) including General Fund (GF), Lottery Funds (LF), Federal Funds (FF), and Other Funds (OF)

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)	\$311.9M TF including \$166.3M GF \$101.5M LF \$44.1M OF	\$329.4M TF including \$250.4M GF \$75.3M LF \$3.7M OF	\$329.4M TF including \$231.7M GF \$94M LF \$3.7M OF	+0.0%
Oregon Promise	\$47.9M TF including \$47.9M GF	\$47.3M TF including \$47.3 GF	\$47.3M TF including \$47.3M GF	+0.0%
Oregon Tribal Student Grant	\$26.5M TF including \$26.5M GF	\$26M TF including \$26M GF	\$26M TF including \$26M GF	+0.0%
Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (ONGSTA)	\$6.2M TF including \$6.2M GF	\$5.5M TF including \$5.5M GF	\$5.5M TF including \$5.5M GF	+0.0%

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
ASPIRE Program	\$7.2M TF including \$6.9M GF \$289K OF	\$2.4M TF including \$2.2M GF \$239K OF	\$2.4M TF including \$2.2M GF \$239K OF	+0.0%
Total	\$399.7M TF including \$253.8M GF \$101.5M LF \$44.4M OF	\$410.6M TF including \$331.4M GF \$75.3M LF \$3.9M OF	\$410.6M TF including \$312.7M GF \$94M LF \$3.9M OF	+0.0%

FF and OF include limited and non-limited.

One-time funding from 2023-25 that is phased out in the 2025-27 LAB includes \$5 million for college access programs, including \$1 million each for ASPIRE, TRIO, GEAR UP, College Possible, and AVID.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITY INVESTMENTS

The funding listed below is a high-level description for each area of institutional funding. The “[State Funding and Formula Summary](#)” is a more detailed description of each area.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORT: State funding appropriated within the Community College Support Fund (CCSF) includes categorical funding for a number of set-aside programs as well as funding for the community college distribution model. The distribution model includes a base payment for each of Oregon’s 17 colleges and then allocates the remaining funding based on enrollment using a three-year average. This was funded at CSL for 2025-27.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SUPPORT: For educational and operational expenses at Oregon’s seven public universities including the Public University Support Fund (PUSF). This was funded at CSL for 2025-27 and includes a technical adjustment to carry forward \$11.1 million in unspent portions of the 2023-25 Regional University Planning and Support for PSU, OIT, EOU, SOU, and WOU into 2025-27.

OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY: This supports the OHSU schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing; the Office of Rural Health; the Area Health Education Centers; the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center; the Oregon Poison Center; and the Statewide Behavioral Health Dashboard. This also includes funding for the Healthcare Workforce 30-30-30 Initiative. This was funded at CSL for 2025-27.

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY STATE PROGRAMS: State programs are largely non-academic programs at public universities focusing on an institution’s public service and/or research mission. This category also includes one-time funding streams appropriated for short-term or targeted programs which may include capital projects funded with general, lottery, or federal funds. Existing state programs were funded at CSL for 2025-27. Additional, ongoing funding for the Cybersecurity Center for Excellence was appropriated this biennium.

STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS: This includes funding for three programs at Oregon State University (Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service and Forest Research Laboratory) which were funded at CSL for 2025-27. It also includes Lottery Funds for the Outdoor School Program which are funded at a level set by expected revenue collections.

SPORTS ACTION LOTTERY: This appropriation provides support to academic and athletic scholarships at each of the seven public universities and are funded at a level set by expected revenue collections.

STATE INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Abbreviations: Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB), Current Service Level (CSL), Total Funds (TF) including General Fund (GF), Lottery Funds (LF), Federal Funds (FF), and Other Funds (OF)

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
Community College Support Fund (CCSF)	\$814.5M TF including \$803.5M GF \$11.0M OF	\$870.7M TF including \$859.3M GF \$11.4M OF	\$870.4M TF including \$859.0M GF \$11.4M OF	0.0%

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
Public University Support Fund (PUSF)	\$1.03B TF including \$1.03B GF	\$1.07B TF including \$1.07B GF	\$1.08B TF including \$1.08B GF	+1.0%
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)	\$140.8M TF including \$140.8M GF	\$146.5M TF including \$146.5M GF	\$147.1M TF including \$147.1M GF	+0.4%
Public University State Programs	\$100.2M TF including \$95.3M GF \$4.9M OF	\$66.7M TF including \$61.7M GF \$5.0M OF	\$67.3M TF including \$62.3M GF \$5.0M OF	+0.9%
Statewide Public Service Programs	\$223.3M TF including \$186.9M GF \$36.4M LF	\$256.7M TF including \$196.6M GF \$60.1M LF	\$245.0M TF including \$197.0 GF \$48.0M LF	-4.5%
Sports Action Lottery	\$18.3M TF including \$18.3M LF	\$19.6M TF including \$19.6M LF	\$18.9M TF including \$18.9 LF	-3.9%
Total	\$2,322.0M TF including \$2,251.4M GF \$54.7M LF \$15.9M OF	\$2,429.0M TF including \$2,332.9M GF \$79.7M LF \$16.4M OF	\$2,428.6M TF including \$2,345.2M GF \$66.9M LF \$16.4M OF	0.0%

FF and OF include limited and non-limited.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS

WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS: These include investments to Local Workforce Boards, the Workforce Talent and Development Board, Oregon Youth Works programs, OregonServes, and Future Ready Oregon Initiatives. The state investments to the Local Workforce Boards, the Workforce Talent and Development Board, and OregonServes were funded at CSL. The state reauthorized \$77 million in ARPA funds for Future Ready Oregon Initiative.

STATE INVESTMENTS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Abbreviations: Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB), Current Service Level (CSL), Total Funds (TF) including General Fund (GF), Lottery Funds (LF), Federal Funds (FF), and Other Funds (OF)

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs)	\$133M TF including \$11M GF \$122M FF	\$139M TF including \$11M GF \$128M FF	\$139M TF including \$11M GF \$128M FF	+0.0%
Oregon Youth Works	\$44M TF including \$19M GF \$24M OF \$1M FF	\$26M TF including \$11M GF \$14M OF \$1M FF	\$26M TF including \$11M GF \$14M OF \$1M FF	+0.0%
Apprenticeship	\$4M TF including \$4M GF	\$0 TF including \$0 GF	\$0 TF including \$0 GF	+0.0%
Oregon Serves	\$7M TF including \$0 GF \$7M FF	\$8M TF including \$0 GF \$8M FF	\$8M TF including \$0 GF \$8M FF	+0.0%
Future Ready Oregon	\$111M TF including \$1M GF \$110M FF	\$1M TF including \$1M GF \$0 FF \$0 OF	\$78M TF including \$1M GF \$0 FF \$77M OF	+7800.0%
Total	\$299M TF including \$35M GF \$240M FF \$24M OF	\$174M TF including \$22M GF \$137M FF \$15M OF	\$250M TF including \$22M GF \$137M FF \$91M OF	+43.7%

FF and OF include limited and non-limited.

HECC AGENCY OPERATIONS

HECC AGENCY OPERATIONS TOTAL: Agency personnel, operational costs and contracting costs are included in these amounts. The LAB for 2025-27 authorized the establishment of three permanent, full-time positions and one limited duration, full-time position to continue phase two of the IT modernization project. It also reauthorizes 10 limited duration positions throughout the agency to carry out the work for Future Ready Oregon. HB 5006 authorized two permanent, full-time positions to support and carry out the work of the Transfer Council and the direct admissions initiative. The transfer position will consolidate project leadership for the first time under one office and foster greater connections to the Commission.

STATE INVESTMENTS IN HECC AGENCY OPERATIONS

Abbreviations: Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB), Current Service Level (CSL), Total Funds (TF) including General Fund (GF), Lottery Funds (LF), Federal Funds (FF), and Other Funds (OF)

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
OPERATIONS TOTAL FUNDING	\$85.9M TF including \$51.1M GF \$0 LF \$15.8M FF \$19.0M OF	\$86.7 TF including \$53.0 GF \$0 LF \$17.1 FF \$16.6 OF	\$94.5 TF including \$53.4 GF \$0 LF \$16.9 FF \$24.2 OF	+8.9%

FF and OF include limited and non-limited.

CAPITAL BONDING AUTHORITY AND DEBT SERVICE

CAPITAL BONDING: The Oregon Legislature can authorize state-issued bonds for capital investments in community college and public university construction projects. Within Article XI of the Oregon Constitution, there are three types of state-backed, general obligation bonds available for higher education capital projects. These include XI-F (1) bonds for public universities only, XI-G bonds for community colleges and public universities, and XI-Q bonds for public universities only.

DEBT SERVICE: The budget also provides debt service for previously approved projects for the public universities, community colleges, and Oregon Health & Science University.

NEW AND REAUTHORIZED COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Amount
Clackamas CC – Center for Excellence for Farming, Horticulture, and Wildland Fire	\$8,000,000
Clatsop CC – Maritime Science Building	\$7,900,000
Klamath CC – Cosmetology ADA Remediation	\$4,000,000
Mt. Hood CC – Classroom and Lab Renovations	\$8,000,000
Southwestern Oregon CC – Student Uplift and Collaboration	\$8,000,000

NEW UNIVERSITY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Amount
All Public Universities Capital Improvement and Renewal	\$120,000,000
PSU – Portland Center for the Performing Arts Academic Building	\$85,000,000
PSU – Center for the Performing Arts Parking Structure	\$52,540,000
PSU – Student Housing	\$85,000,000
UO – Child Behavioral Health Building	\$53,250,000
SOU – Creative Industries/Student Success	\$40,550,000
WOU – Data Center	\$13,107,853

STATE INVESTMENTS IN DEBT SERVICE

Abbreviations: Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB), Current Service Level (CSL), Total Funds (TF) including General Fund (GF), Lottery Funds (LF), Federal Funds (FF), and Other Funds (OF)

	2023-25 LAB	2025-27 CSL	2025-27 LAB	2025-27 LAB Change from CSL
DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	\$603.5M TF including \$321.1M GF \$44.8M LF \$4.0 FF \$233.6 OF	\$667.7M TF including \$411.8M GF \$47.2M LF \$3.9M FF \$204.8M OF	\$636.3M TF including \$377.8M GF \$44.4M LF \$3.9M FF \$210.2M OF	-4.7%

FF and OF include limited and non-limited.

BILL SUMMARIES

NOTE: Bill summaries are an unofficial analysis of the effect of bills provided by staff. They are not intended to capture every requirement or nuance contained in a piece of legislation, and do not carry the force of law. If there are any ambiguities or differences between the summary and the statutory text, the statutory text controls. Budget bills and appropriations pass-through bills without other legislatively established policy elements are not included in this section. Resolutions and other legislative measures that are not law are also not included.

BILL SUMMARIES: AFFORDABILITY

SB 796: BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIPS

This bill allows the Oregon Board of Accountancy to award grants to organizations to fund need-based scholarships for students pursuing postsecondary education in accounting.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 798: OUT-OF-STATE NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER TUITION BENEFITS

This bill qualifies active Oregon National Guard members who are residents of another state, as well as their spouses and dependents, for in-state tuition at Oregon's public universities.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 2586: IN-STATE TUITION FOR CERTAIN NON-CITIZEN GROUPS

This bill adds asylum seekers to the classes of non-citizen individuals entitled to in-state tuition and Oregon public universities and adds Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to the list of public universities in Oregon where asylum seekers, refugees, and special immigrant visa holders can receive an exemption from paying nonresident tuition and fees.

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

HB 2649: DISCOUNTED TUITION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM CERTAIN EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AT THE TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

This bill allows the governing boards of Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University to establish a collaborative higher education and economic development program with certain East Asian countries, determined by the institutional boards, in which qualifying students may enroll at a lower tuition rate than the typical international student rate. The lower rate must be equivalent to the average in-state tuition rate at EOU, OIT, SOU, and WOU, and governing boards may set additional fees for these students.

Effective Date: June 11, 2025

HB 3025: OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT (OOG) EQUITY REFORM

This bill removes the shared responsibility model from statute, a mechanism for cost-sharing that was implemented at the program's inception. The change allows HECC to maintain a modern financial aid awarding model by agency rule.

It also removes the tuition equity requirement, which created an unintended barrier to accessing the grant for certain non-citizen Oregon residents who are eligible for all other state grant awards. It allows HECC to expand enrollment level eligibility to students enrolled at 1/4 and 3/4 time, and it expands the OOG to learners enrolled in certificate programs at Oregon's public institutions and eligible Oregon-based private nonprofit institutions.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 3920: EXPANDING TUITION WAIVERS FOR RELATIVES OF PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

This bill raises the age by which a dependent child of a disabled or deceased service member or Purple Heart recipient can apply for the waiver from age 23 to age 31, and it allows an exemption to the age limit for anyone qualifying for the federal Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program.

Effective Date: September 28, 2025

BILL SUMMARIES: PATHWAYS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

SB 784: DUAL CREDIT STANDARDS FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

This bill requires the HECC to develop statewide standards for dual credit programs in agriculture, forestry, and natural resources. Standards must include a provision for career and technical student organizations to determine the quality and alignment of approved dual credit programs in these fields.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 2007: SUMMER LEARNING GRANT MODIFICATIONS

This bill modifies the requirements of the Department of Education's summer learning grant program and allows higher education institutions to be partners with grantee organizations.

Effective Date: April 23, 2025

HB 2421: PRIVATE INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY FOR THE DIRECT ADMISSION PROGRAM

The bill expands the direct admissions program administered by the HECC to include eligible, Oregon private institutions that agree to participate.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 3026, SECTIONS 5-7: OREGON TEACHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

HB 3026 is a HECC omnibus bill that makes several modifications to the agency's operations and programs. Sections 5-7 change the reference to diversity within the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program. Eligible new candidates now must be able to demonstrate their experience with diverse populations. Renewal students will continue to receive the grant under prior rules.

Effective Date: June 24, 2025

BILL SUMMARIES: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

SB 810: WORKFORCE ADVANCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

This bill creates an advisory committee to the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education on strategies for increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain employment and advance in their careers. The advisory committee includes the State Workforce and Talent Development Board and the local workforce development boards. The committee will convene quarterly, beginning January 2026, and provide recommendations to the Governor and state agencies on improving workforce outcomes for people with disabilities.

Effective Date: September 28, 2025

SB 1061: LUMBER GRADING TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM

This bill requires the Oregon State University Extension Service to establish a lumber grading training pilot program to be offered annually. The program must be developed in consultation with the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 2024, SECTION 1: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INCENTIVES

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is directed to develop a program for awarding grants to eligible entities with the goal of improving recruitment and retention of behavioral health care providers. Grantee organizations may use the funds to provide scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students entering the behavioral health care field, loan forgiveness and repayment incentives, tuition assistance, and stipends for enrolled students.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 3038, SECTIONS 1-3: STEM INVESTMENT COUNCIL AND STEM GRANTS

The bill specifies that science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grants administered by the Department of Education should be used to sustain a network of partners that includes regional career technical education providers and local workforce development boards. It also requires that STEM programs supported by the grants align with regional labor market and industry partner needs, and it makes education service districts eligible for the grants.

Effective Date: June 24, 2025

BILL SUMMARIES: GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

SB 1109: RECORDING OF EDUCATIONAL BOARD GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

This bill modifies a preexisting requirement that certain boards of educational institutions, including community colleges and public universities, video record their meetings and post them online, now requiring the institution to post only the meetings held by the entity that governs the institutions.

Effective Date: May 28, 2025

HB 2695: OHSU PRESIDENTIAL HIRING COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS

This bill requires the OHSU Board of Directors to include representatives of the OHSU community, a president of an Oregon public university, one faculty member, one nonfaculty staff member, and one member of the student body as part of presidential search committees (excluding acting or interim president searches).

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 3026, SECTIONS 1-4: TRANSFER COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HECC PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

HB 3026 is a HECC omnibus bill that makes several modifications to the agency's operations and programs. Section 1 exempts meetings of Transfer Council subcommittees comprised solely of faculty and dealing with academic questions from public meeting law. Section 2 makes exemptions to the requirement that certain Transfer Council subcommittees maintain parity in membership between community college and public university faculty in cases where it is not practical, such as when a certain program of study is primarily offered at either community colleges or universities. Sections 3 and 4 grant HECC independent procurement authority on par with other large state agencies.

Effective Date: June 24, 2025

HB 3027: PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

This bill grants the HECC authority to seek an injunction in a circuit court to aid the agency in achieving compliance with state law and regulation by a private career school that is otherwise noncompliant.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 3028: OFFICE OF DEGREE AUTHORIZATION FEES

HECC's Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) relies on revenue from license-related fees paid by private career schools operating in the state to fund staff who review applications for authorization. Previously, the fees were limited to a statutory schedule, so ODA was unable to adapt fees to market conditions and agency needs without legislative authorization. This bill allows ODA to publish its fees in rule (only for activities for which it already charges fees).

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

BILL SUMMARIES: DATA AND REPORTING

HB 3026, SECTION 8: HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

HB 3026 is a HECC omnibus bill that makes several modifications to the agency's operations and programs. Section 8 requires the HECC, in consultation with the colleges and universities, to conduct a study about existing higher education institution reporting requirements. The study will provide recommendations for improving the efficiency, relevance, and quality of higher education data, including by eliminating or consolidating reports, changing the frequency of reports, and/or adding reports that improve understanding of higher education outcomes in Oregon.

Effective Date: June 24, 2025

HB 3731: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The bill modifies aspects of a required annual report that institutions must provide to the HECC about incidents of sexual misconduct and violence on campuses. It allows for an optional narrative section where institutions can provide

more context about the responses to each section of the survey, expands the categories of persons against whom a student or employee can file a complaint, adds a requirement for institutions to list resources offered to students experiencing sexual violence, and several other modifications.

Effective Date: June 20, 2025

BILL SUMMARIES: OTHER

HB 2548: FARMWORKER LABOR STANDARDS AND WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS STUDY

This bill directs Portland State University's Center for Public Service to conduct a study, in consultation with Oregon State University, of farmworker working conditions in Oregon. The study must cover health and safety risks, wages, access to benefits, opportunities to raise concerns, workplace harassment, and other topics. HECC must report the results of the study at three points in 2026 to the interim legislative committees on agriculture, business, labor, and natural resources.

Effective Date: July 24, 2025

HB 2551: SPECIAL CAMPUS SECURITY OFFICERS

The bill directs the governing boards of public universities to ensure that background information about special campus security officers, including past disciplinary actions, is requested from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and reviewed prior to commissioning the officer.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026

HB 2556: OREGON'S URBAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITY DESIGNATION

This bill designates Portland State University as Oregon's Urban Research University.

Effective Date: June 3, 2025

HB 3041: EDUCATOR ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The bill makes several changes to the Educator Advancement Council, including by ending the intergovernmental agreement that created the Council, slightly adjusting its goals and required activities, and establishing membership requirements and term limits for standing and rotating members of participating state agencies, including HECC.

Effective Date: September 28, 2025

HB 3694: STUDENT NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS, OR ATHLETIC REPUTATION COMPENSATION

This bill allows athletes enrolled in an Oregon postsecondary institution, and prospective student athletes, to receive compensation from an institution for use of the student's name, image, likeness, or athletic reputation. Any contract related to student compensation is exempt from disclosure under Oregon public records laws.

Effective Date: June 26, 2025

ASSIGNED REPORTS, WORK GROUPS, AND BUDGET NOTES

REPORTS ASSIGNED BY LEGISLATION IN 2025

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATES
HB 2548	Farmworker Working Conditions	PSU and OSU are directed to study farmworker working conditions. HECC will report interim and final results of the study to the legislative committees on agriculture, business, labor, and natural resources.	May 1, September 1, and December 1, 2026
HB 2947	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Concentrations in Biosolids	OSU must twice report to legislative committees on agriculture about the progress of the study of PFAS concentrations.	December 15, 2026 and September 1, 2028
HB 3026, Section 8	Higher Education Reporting Requirements	HECC, in collaboration with the public institutions, will assess required legislative reporting for higher education and make recommendations for improvement.	November 15, 2026

WORK GROUPS ASSIGNED BY LEGISLATION IN 2025

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
SB 810	Workforce Advancement for Individuals with Disabilities	The State Workforce and Talent Development Board and local workforce development boards are included in a statewide advisory committee, beginning January 2026, on increasing opportunities for people with disabilities to gain employment and advance in their careers.
HB 2508	K-12 Student Data	A technical advisory committee will advise the Department of Education on a new, centralized student data system, including an expert on the Oregon Longitudinal Data system (housed at the HECC).

BUDGET NOTES

BILL	TOPIC	NOTE CONTENT
SB 5525	Using Data and Collaboration to Assess Spending Efficiency and Adequate Funding Level	<p>Recognizing the various cost drivers that public institutions face, the legislature has directed HECC, in consultation with Oregon’s public universities, to assess spending and cost efficiency at the universities. HECC will report on findings and recommendations for reducing institutional costs and students’ cost of attendance to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2026 legislative session. The report and findings will include an analysis of metrics like student-to-faculty and student-to-staff ratios, institutional revenue and expenditure data, academic program growth and decline, and enrollment and completion rates, to identify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Factors contributing to changes in academic, research, student support, administrative, and facility costs. 2. Factors contributing to changes in institutional revenue levels and composition. 3. Current and projected institutional debt and debt service. 4. Federal, state, and local regulations that can lead to financial strain on institutions.
SB 5006	Financial Viability of the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC)	<p>The budget note directs OHSU to study the current and future financial viability of the ONPRC. OHSU must submit a report to the House Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Committee by January 1, 2026, that includes ONPRC funding sources between 2023 and 2027, the projected impact of federal funding reductions, confirmation that no state general funds are used for program operations, and a comprehensive plan for closure in the event that ONPRC experiences a reduction of more than 25% of its funds from the National Institutes of Health, or if state funds are needed for continued operation.</p>

BILL	TOPIC	NOTE CONTENT
HB 2947	OSU Report on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Biosolids Applied to Agricultural Fields	<p>The OSU Extension Service and the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) are directed to submit a progress report by December 15, 2026, and a final report by September 1, 2028, to agriculture-related interim committees of the Legislative Assembly. The final report on the study conducted must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFAS concentrations in biosolids. • PFAS concentrations in background and biosolid-amended soil horizons. • PFAS concentrations in crops grown on biosolid-amended soils. • Comparisons to published literature for context and interpretation.

POTENTIAL AGENCY RULEMAKING ACTION

The absence of a bill or topic within a bill in the following table does not indicate that rulemaking is prohibited or will not occur. As HECC staff develop work plans and further analyze legislation, it may be determined that rulemaking is required or permitted and the preferred mechanism of implementing legislation for areas not listed here.

BILL	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
HB 3025	Oregon Opportunity Grant Equity Reforms	Modifying OOG eligibility and awarding by removing the shared responsibility model, expanding eligibility for students enrolled at $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time, and expanding eligibility for students seeking certificate programs.
HB 3026, Sections 5-7	Oregon Teacher Scholars Program Diversity Definition	Adjusting eligibility criteria for the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program application based on the new diversity definition beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year.
HB 3027	Private Career School Injunctive Relief	Injunctive relief in case of career school regulatory violations.
HB 3028	Office of Degree Authorization Fees	Giving HECC the authority to publish existing ODA fees via rule.
HB 3041	Educator Advancement Council duties	HECC may adopt any rules, at the request of the Educator Advancement Council, needed to carry out its responsibilities to the Council.