

# SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE

## 2015–16 OPERATING BUDGET

Dear Springfield,

I am presenting a proposed 2015–2016 budget that represents a “status quo” budget rather than the “reinvestment” budget we had hoped to see our legislators support.

Living within our means is nothing new to Springfield and we will continue to look for ways to continue improving the education we offer our students to ensure they are given the best possible opportunities to learn, grow and succeed.

This proposed budget reflects the values we, as a community and an organization, have held closely throughout the recession and continue to hold as Oregon begins to recover. Those values are:

- *Maintaining a full calendar for our students.* The 2014–2015 school year was the first full school year Springfield students experienced since 2008. Despite the “status quo” budget and increasing financial commitment to other programs and services, we will be maintaining a full instructional year in 2015–2016.
- *Reducing the impact on our classrooms.* In 2015–2016, staffing will “roll forward” in order to keep class sizes from rising across the District. Although average class sizes have seen a gradual increase during the last several years, Springfield Public Schools has been largely successful in limiting that growth when possible.
- *Equity of outcome for all students.* Each and every student in Springfield deserves the best education possible. We strive to provide that by budgeting for professional development so that our educators can continue to improve their skills on behalf of all of our students.

- *Providing schools with necessary supplies.* Although large-scale investment in new textbooks is not possible with the State’s approved 2015–2017 biennial budget, we are able to increase individual school supply budgets to allow schools to begin reinvesting in the supplies and materials that help bring learning to life.

In addition to the four values above, there are new or continuing programs that require a portion of the limited resources available for the next biennium.

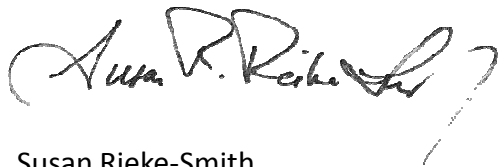
- *Full-Day Kindergarten:* Offering students a full-day kindergarten program will help schools better prepare all children for success in future grades. It will also help narrow the achievement gap between students who do not receive early learning support at home and those who do. Beginning during the 2015–2016 school year, the State will help fund full-day kindergarten by allocating the full funding amount for kindergarteners, rather than half. While this helps Springfield with the ongoing costs of implementing a full-day program, it does not provide funding for the building improvements, supplies and other instructional materials necessary to begin the program. In Springfield, the one-time costs associated with the start-up of full-day kindergarten total approximately \$150,000 and include items such as additional curriculum/instructional materials, furniture/equipment, classroom supplies and professional development for staff.
- *Dual Immersion:* As Springfield moves into its second year of offering a dual immersion option at Guy Lee Elementary, there are some costs not covered by the expiring grant funds. Those costs include instructional materials and supplies needed as the kindergarten program doubles in size and rolls up to the first-grade level along with the inaugural class. Additional needs are being covered with existing budgets.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE (Continued)

Along with the instructional work performed daily in our classrooms, Springfield Public Schools is also in the midst of implementing the many projects funded by the 2014 general obligation bond measure. The 2015–2016 school year will see the design of the new Hamlin Middle School and the beginning of its construction, with a grand opening in September 2017. We will also complete the addition of classroom space at five elementary schools, continue to make “bond basics” and safety improvements at each school and continue to upgrade technology throughout the District. Detailed bond information and progress can be found on the District’s website.

All of us at Springfield Public Schools are committed to working on behalf of our nearly 11,000 students to ensure our vision of *Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future* a reality.

Warmly,



Susan Rieke-Smith  
Acting Superintendent  
Springfield Public Schools

