



# Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Priorities

Salem-Keizer Public Schools

In August 2023, the district began sharing information about a large, forecasted budget gap for the 2024-25 school year. The district immediately acted by identifying cost reductions and savings, gathering public input, and working with the board to establish district priorities.

The district began reductions in the fall and announced the first round of \$31 million in recommended reductions in December. The second round includes an additional \$40 million in recommended reductions. At over \$70 million, this is the largest reduction in over a decade. It has been difficult to design and recommend. It will be even more difficult to make, but we cannot avoid reduction at this level. We must make these reductions to maintain financial health, while funding formula reform remains our long-term goal and solution.

## Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors' Long-Term Priorities

The Board established the following priorities. The budget reductions attempt to prioritize the services and programs that help achieve these goals.

1. Regular attendance rates
2. Third graders reading at grade level
3. Ninth graders on track to graduate high school
4. Four-year cohort graduation rate
5. Student sense of belonging

## Priorities and Values based on Stakeholder Engagement

Based on community feedback, the following programs and services were prioritized.

- Student sense of belonging and safe and welcoming schools
- Extracurricular experiences (e.g., performing arts, athletics)
- Career and technical education opportunities
- Rigorous and relevant instruction (e.g., AP and IB courses)
- Social emotional instruction and student mental health support

Based on district goals, stakeholder feedback, and the application of our equity lens, the following areas are being protected as much as possible:

- Dual language programs
- Current career and technical education programs
- Music or fine arts programs
- Athletics
- Elementary class ratio
- Safety staff or safety systems
- Special education services
- Mental and behavioral health services
- AVID, AP and IB programming

## Application of Salem-Keizer Public Schools' Equity Lens

Using Salem-Keizer's equity lens, the following programs and services were prioritized.

- Special education services
- Mental and behavioral health services
- Compensation and retention of multilingual educators and staff
- Dual language program continuation and expansion
- Community and family connections through specially trained and culturally competent staff