Coronavirus Resources: K-12 Education

Sen. Merkley, using his leadership position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, fought hard to make sure the $2.2 trillion coronavirus relief funding stabilizes families, workers, small businesses, housing, education, agriculture, and health care. As these resources are distributed, Sen. Merkley’s office will keep Oregonians up to date on what in the bill helps individuals and communities, and how to access the resources. He will continue to fight to make sure much-needed aid gets to the people who need it most.

Coronavirus relief to help K-12 students and schools:

An estimated $32.6 million is included for the Governor’s Fund for use in Oregon

- This funding will provide emergency support to K-12, higher education, or educational entities in Oregon that the governor determines to have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus, to continue to provide education and instruction and support the functionality of the institution.

An estimated $121 million is included for the Elementary and Secondary School Fund for use in Oregon

- This funding will provide grants to be distributed by the Secretary of Education that will help schools:
  - work to coordinate their preparedness and response to coronavirus;
  - provide principals with resources to meet individual school needs;
  - provide activities to address unique needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, including outreach and service delivery to meet needs of these populations;
  - improve preparedness and response, including training on sanitization to minimize spread of infectious diseases;
  - purchase supplies to sanitize and clean school facilities or buildings;
  - plan for long-term closures, including how to provide meals to students and provide technology for online learning,
  - meet IDEA requirements;
  - purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) including to provide technology to low-income students and students with disabilities who may require assistive technology or adaptive equipment;
  - provide mental health services and support;
  - offer summer learning and supplemental education;
  - fund other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of services and continuing to employ staff.

For updates: Visit merkley.senate.gov/coronavirus for updates on these and other resources as the relief bills are implemented.