



2025 Legislative Summit

Session Overview – March 5, 2025

John Wykoff, OCCA Deputy Director

Legislative Session Overview

How it works & what to expect

Key Issues in the 2025 Session

- Housing
- Behavioral Health
- Early Childhood Education
- K-12 Funding
- Transportation
- Significant Member Turnover and Retirements – 19 Freshmen Legislators

Legislative and Budget Process

- **April:** Ways and Means Co-Chairs Release Budget
- **April:** Ways and Means Hearing
- **May 14:** Final Revenue Forecast
- **May – June 2025:** Legislature Passes Budget Bills
- **June 28, 2025:** Session Ends

Committees to Follow

SENATE

- **Committee on Education** – meets 8:00-9:30 a.m. Mondays/Wednesdays
 - ❖ *Chair: Sen. Lew Frederick; Vice Chair: Sen. Suzanne Weber*

HOUSE

- **Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development** – meets 8:00-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays/Thursdays
 - ❖ *Chair: Rep. Zach Hudson; Vice Chairs: Rep. Lisa Fragala & Rep. Darin Harbick*

Committees to Follow

JOINT (budget)

- **Committee on Ways & Means** – meets 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays
 - ❖ *Chairs: Sen. Kate Lieber & Rep. Tawna Sanchez; Vice Chairs: Sen. Fred Girod, Rep. David Gomberg & Rep. Greg Smith*
- **Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education** – meets 1:00-2:30 p.m. Mondays/Wednesdays
 - ❖ *Chairs: Sen. Janeen Sollman & Rep. Ricki Ruiz*
- **Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction** – meets 8:00-9:30 a.m. Fridays
 - ❖ *Chairs: Sen. Fred Girod & Rep. Rob Nosse*

Senate Committee on Education



Senator Lew Frederick (Chair)
D-Portland

- Before his legislative career, Sen. Frederick worked as a television reporter, bringing a unique perspective to his policy work.
- Has been a strong advocate for education and public safety throughout his tenure.



Senator Suzanne Weber (Vice-Chair) *R- Tillamook*

- Served as mayor of Tillamook and recently was appointed to the TBCC Board of Education, demonstrating her commitment to local governance and community development.
- With over 30 years of experience as an elementary school teacher, she brings first-hand educational experience to her legislative role.

Senate Committee on Education



Senator Sara Gelsner Blouin

D- Corvallis, Albany, Tangent, Adair Village, South Salem and unincorporated parts of Linn, Benton and Marion Counties

- Has been recognized nationally for her work on behalf of children and people with disabilities, reflecting her dedication to vulnerable populations.
- Legislative efforts have led to significant reforms in child welfare and education systems.



Senator Noah Robinson

R-Cave Junction

- Has contributed to groundbreaking research in biochemistry while also advancing education through innovative curriculum development.
- Senator Robinson wants to bring a data-driven approach to legislative discussions on the future of Oregon's community colleges.

Senate Committee on Education



Senator Janeen Sollman

*D - Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro,
Rock Creek*

- Has a background in the high-tech industry, providing valuable insights into technology and workforce development.
- As a former school board member, she has a deep understanding of educational policy and administration and has been a strong advocate for education .

House Committee on Higher Education



**Representative Zach Hudson
(Chair)** *D-Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, Gresham, Portland:* A former high school teacher and community college instructor, bringing firsthand educational experience to his legislative role.



Representative Darin Harbick (Vice-Chair) *R-Eastern Lane County:* A successful small business owner with deep roots in his community, committed to economic development and job creation.



**Representative Lisa Fragala
(Vice-Chair)** *D-Eugene to Creswell:* An experienced educator and advocate for public education, dedicated to supporting students and teachers.



Representative Sarah McDonald *D-Corvallis:* An active community leader with a focus on healthcare and social services, striving to improve access and quality for all Oregonians

House Committee on Higher Education



Representative Lesly Muñoz,
D-North Salem to Woodburn: A labor organizer and education advocate, working to build stronger communities and improve working conditions for all.



Representative Dwayne Yunker
R-Grants Pass: A dedicated public servant with experience in local government, focusing on infrastructure and community development.



Representative Boomer Wright
R-Coos Bay: A retired educator and school administrator, bringing extensive experience in public education to his legislative work.

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education



Senator Janeen Sollman, (Co-Chair) *D-Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro, Rock Creek*



Representative Ricki Ruiz (Co-Chair)
D-Gresham: Raised by immigrant parents and first in his family to graduate high school and earn a bachelor's degree. Has championed many issues on behalf of college students and higher education.



Senator Lew Frederick, D-Portland



Senator Suzanne Weber (Vice-Chair) *R-Tillamook*

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education



Representative Susan McLain
D-Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro
Brings over 40 years of experience as a teacher and speech and debate coach and served four terms as a Metro Regional Government Councilor before being elected to the Oregon House



Representative Hòa Nguyễn
D-Portland: Serves on the David Douglas School Board and is currently a Student and Community Engagement Specialist at the Clackamas Education Service District. Eldest daughter of Vietnamese refugees.



Representative Boomer Wright
R-Coos Bay



Representative Dwayne Yunker
R-Grants Pass

Major Session Bills

(So Far)

HB 5525

- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Agency Budget Bill
 - ❖ *Community College Support Fund (CCSF) resides within this budget, along with the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG).*
- Currently, HB 5525 identifies a need for \$858.9 million for the CCSF
 - ❖ *OCCA will advocate for a true Current Service Level of **\$920 million** to better support the true needs of the colleges.*

HB 5525

- HB 5525 lists the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$276 million for the 2025-27 biennium
 - ❖ *OCCA will advocate for **\$450 million** to expand access to more Oregonians needing financial assistance to attain an education.*

HB 5505

- Community college capital construction funding (Article XI-G matching bond funds up to \$8 million)
 - ❖ *Clackamas CC – Center for Excellence for Farming, Horticulture & Wildland Fire (Article XI-G match request: \$8 million)*
 - ❖ *Klamath CC – Early Childcare Learning Center & Cosmetology ADA Updates (Article XI-G match request: \$8 million)*
 - ❖ *Mt. Hood CC – Classroom & Lab Renovations (Article XI-G match request: \$8 million)*

HB 3635

- OCCA bill to increase the cap on Article XI-G capital construction funds for community colleges projects from \$8M to \$14.25M
 - ❖ *The cap on community college capitol construction requests has been \$8M since 2007.*
 - ❖ *Adjusting for inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI), today the cap would be just over \$14.25M. Even this is a conservative estimate as construction costs have risen faster than the CPI over time.*

SB 478

- Modifies Board of Education governance at community colleges.
 - ❖ *Requires boards to approve a college's membership in a state or national association;*
 - ❖ *Requires board vacancies be filled in 90 days if more than 90 days from an election*
 - ❖ *Requires boards to have official email addresses available on the college website*
 - ❖ *Requires an additional non-voting board member who is a full-time student.*



OCCCA Legislative Priorities

Approved by OCCCA Board on 12/6/2024

Legislative Priorities

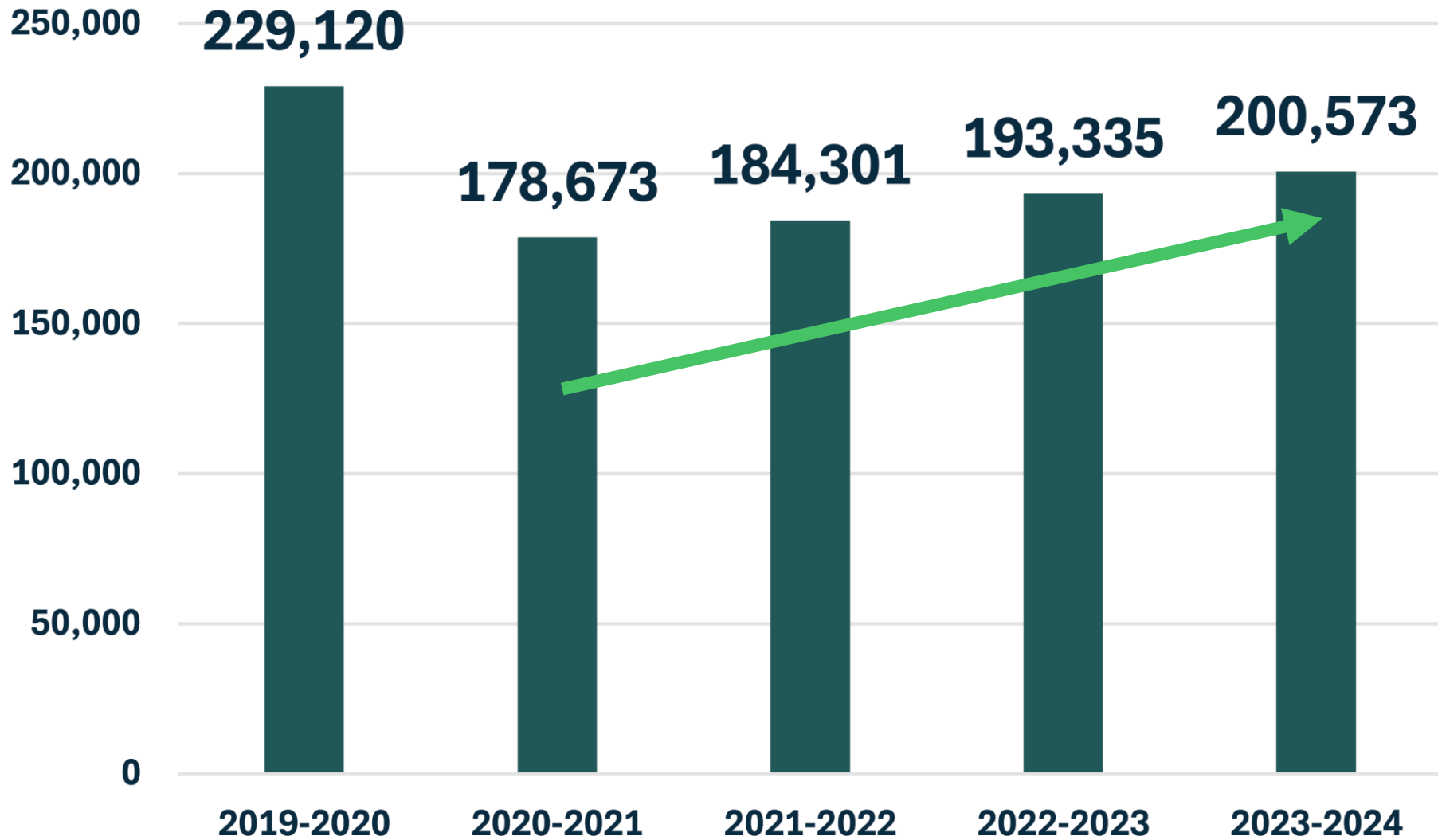
2025 Session

- 1. Increase the Community College Support Fund (CCSF)**
- 2. Raise the cap on community college capital construction matching funds**
3. Expand funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)
4. Secure resources for student basic needs
5. Funding support for colleges to transition to corequisite student support models
6. Develop an Adult Reconnect work group to reengage learners with some college credit but no credential

Community College Support Fund (CCSF)

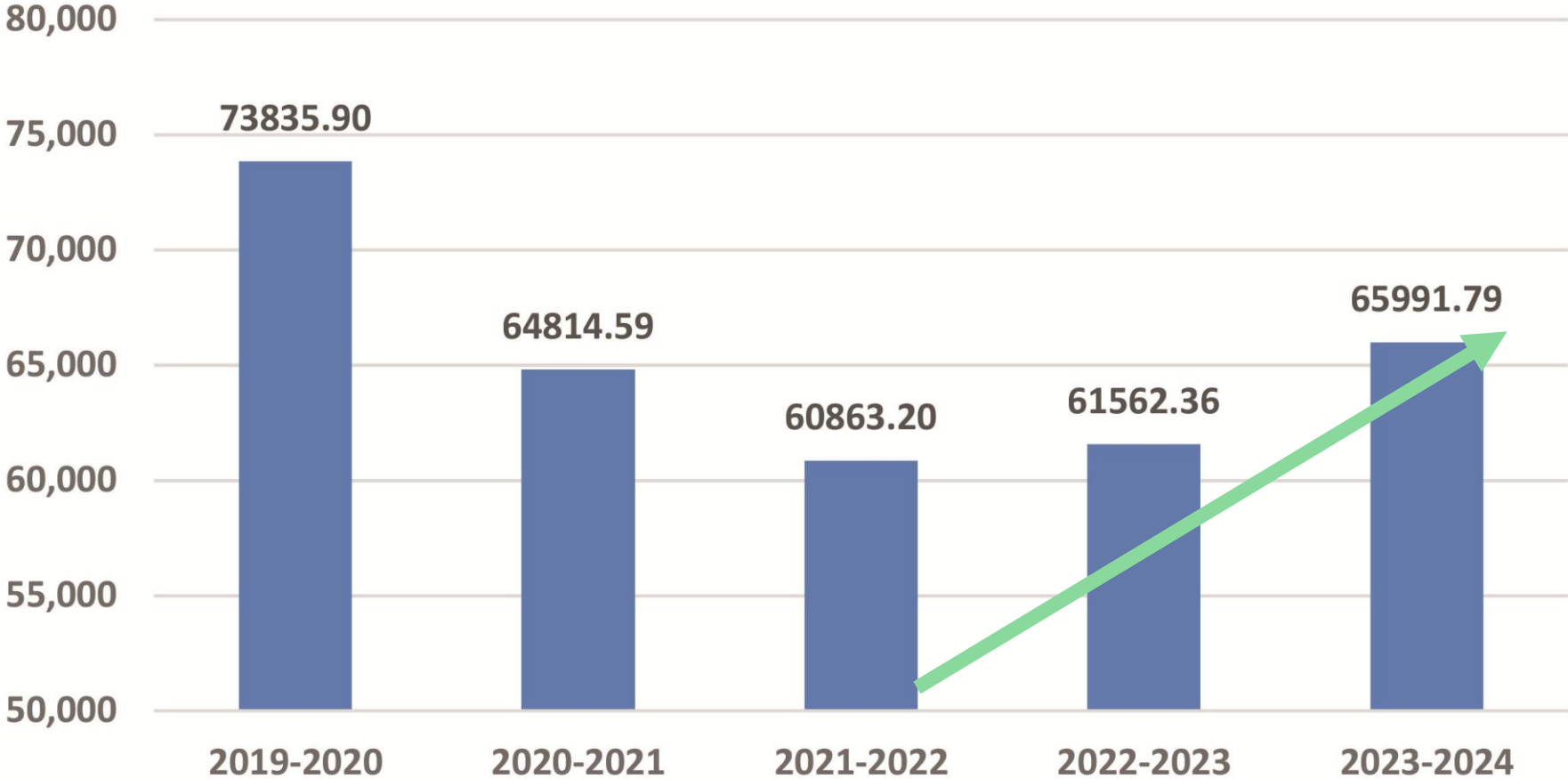
- HECC Agency Budget: \$858.9 million (state CSL)
- Governor's Recommended Budget: \$870.4 million for CCSF
- **True CSL for community colleges: \$920 million**
 - ❖ *What's needed to sustain current services with only modest tuition increases*
 - ❖ *Covers rising costs of operations, ensuring colleges can maintain essential programs and avoid potential cuts – to protect current services colleges need an increase of 15.7 percent from the 2023-2025 biennium.*
 - ❖ *Accounts for steady enrollment increase trend over last two years – Fall FTE was up 7% statewide, with a 4.3% increase in statewide headcount over 2023*

Headcount - Statewide



FTE has increased

Reimbursable FTE



Budget Talking Points

- **Affordable Access:** Community colleges are Oregon's most affordable entry point to post-secondary education and career training.
- **Workforce & Economy:** They drive workforce and economic development in the communities they serve.
- **State Priorities:** Community colleges help address key issues like housing, behavioral health, and addiction counseling. *(Examples from colleges)*
- **Growing Enrollment:** Statewide FTE enrollment is up **7.5%** over the last academic year.
- **CTE Growth:** The fastest enrollment increases are in Career & Technical Education (CTE) degrees and short-term career certificates.

Budget Talking Points

- **Family Wage Careers:** CTE programs provide pathways to high-demand, well-paying careers while addressing local workforce needs.
- **High Cost of CTE:** CTE programs, especially nursing, are among the most expensive for community colleges due to equipment and hands-on training requirements.
- **Funding Need:** Community colleges require \$120 million more for the 2025-27 biennium (a 15.7% increase) to sustain vital education and training programs.
- **Student Support Services:** Demand for childcare, food, housing assistance, and other wraparound services has surged over the last five years.
- **Open Access for All:** Community colleges serve students of all ages and backgrounds; the average age is 26, and 52% are over 25.

Budget Talking Points

- **State Support Matters:** Without adequate funding, colleges face tuition hikes, program cuts, and reduced student services.

Community Colleges WORK for Oregon.

Bill Tracker

Katie Archambault, OCCA Operations Director

Access to view OCCA tracked bills

2025 Advocacy Toolkit

- Advocating with one voice creates a stronger, louder and consistent message to legislators
- Toolkit provides items that aid all advocates throughout the Session to keep messaging consistent
- Toolkit is updated throughout the Session to remain current & provide additional tools
- Toolkit includes:
 - *Talking Points*
 - *Informational One-Pagers*
 - *Testimony Templates*
 - *Lobbying Tips*
 - *Advocacy Training Recording Link*
 - *Social Media Guidance*
 - *One-Click Politics campaigns*

Find it!

<https://www.occa17.com/advocacy-toolkit/>



| Questions?

John Wykoff: jwykoff@occa17.com