

Oregon high schools leave too many of our kids behind.

Let's act *before it's too late.*

Oregon's public high schools have sadly become a dead end for far too many of our kids. We enjoy a top 15 national ranking in K-8, but **when it comes to high school graduation rates, Oregon is 47th**. Also, 3 out of 4 who do graduate and go on to community college aren't prepared and must take remedial classes that won't count toward their college coursework. Others leave high school lacking the hands-on skills needed to be competitive in today's job market.

47th out of 50 is embarrassing, and it reflects poorly **not** on students or teachers, but on an education system that has failed to adequately support our high schools. For those of us who have chosen to call Oregon home, **it's our responsibility to act**. Our children are unwitting victims of a broken system that **can** be fixed. IP65 addresses three major problems and their solutions that will change Oregon's future for the better:



CTE education classes aren't available to most Oregon high school students.



GOAL: CTE classes available to every Oregon high schooler

CTE coursework includes engineering, computer science, graphic arts, health care, alternative fuel design, 3-D printing, welding, and many more. It provides hands-on learning that keeps students engaged and inspired as they consider their future career paths. IP 65 will fund new CTE programs while expanding existing ones.



College credit courses are scarce.



GOAL: College credit courses available to every Oregon high schooler

Getting a jump on college credits has proven to inspire students to finish high school and pursue college with a head start. IP 65 will fund advanced placement (AP) classes, co-enrollment with local community colleges and universities, or International Baccalaureate classes.



Too many kids are dropping out of high school.



GOAL: Reduce high school drop-outs to ZERO.

Preventing high school drop-outs is not hard, and some schools—but not enough—have proven it can be done. The formula involves early identification of at-risk students and providing them with consistent support right up through graduation day. This includes tutoring, family counseling (if needed), career counseling, mentoring, access to relevant coursework and after-school activities, and more. **We know it works!**

IP65 Initiative Petition 65

Better High Schools NOW

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"With Oregon's graduation rates 10 points below the national average, a targeted approach is clearly necessary. IP65 will enable school districts to expand proven approaches for addressing the dropout crisis and preparing students for success in college and their career. It's a smart way to tackle our state's most pressing problem."

--Governor Ted Kulongoski



"Families should be able to count on our schools for relevant learning for today's world. As the first in my family to earn a college degree, I know we must restore the engaging and challenging courses to schools that promise great futures for all children, particularly those from underserved communities."

--Carmen Rubio, Executive Director of the Latino Network



"In my 31 years as an educator, I never heard a student in a career and technical education (CTE) class ask the typical question, 'Why do I have to learn this?' CTE (voc-ed) is an investment in our students, in our communities, and in our future. I've been waiting a long time for a measure like IP 65 that will truly change the odds for our high school students across the state."

--Kathy Sansone, retired educator, Salem-Keizer Public Schools

We can't wait any longer.

Oregon high schools *must* be a higher priority...

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...and Initiative Petition 65 does exactly that. Oregon's 8th graders are exceptionally well-prepared for high school, but then something happens to slow that momentum down. It could be personal, or it could be academic, but either way high schools have a duty to educate **all** students regardless of their obstacles. Education is about more than teaching. It's also about guidance and support on an individual level. By allocating funds to programs that we know work, we'll see dramatic improvements in state graduation rates and college and career readiness. Better yet, the money has already been budgeted... so **no new taxes!**

A few steps go a long way.

IP 65 lays out **THREE** simple programs that will have a profound effect on our children's lives, as well as our local communities. By focusing on these areas we know our exceptional students can be all they can be. IP 65 does not require school districts to participate, but if they do they can allocate the funds as they see fit among these three programs:



Career Technical Education (CTE) → **Learn real-world skills!**



College level courses → **Get a head start!**



Drop-out prevention → **Don't give up!**

Current Oregon school funding models treat every grade (K-12) equally, but high schools are more expensive to run and require additional support. IP 65 will provide additional class time for students who participate in CTE or college level courses and will **not** take away from the existing curriculum. Without change, over 10,000 Oregon students every year won't graduate high school, and thousands more will give up on college. And most new living-wage jobs in Oregon require at least a 2-year college degree. The system has failed too many of our children, despite a pool of talented teachers and administrators, but it's not too late to right the ship.

Stats and Facts:

- **IP 65 does not raise taxes or divert money away from existing programs.** Funds already raised but not yet allocated will increase annual per-high school student state spending by \$800 (7%).
- **IP 65 is accountable.** School districts must apply for the funds, outlining how they will spend the money, and must report results. They will then be subject to regular performance audits.
- **IP 65 is based on local control.** Schools will work with their communities to develop IP 65 programs so they match the local needs of their kids.
- **Oregon has the 4th worst high school graduation rates in the entire county.**
- **Oregon 8th graders rank 7th in the nation in reading and 14th in math, so the aptitude is there!!**
- **91% of CTE students across Oregon graduate high school on time, compared to 74% overall.**
- **Oregon high school drop-out rate is 4.25% and rising.**

Let's prepare them for success in life, *right now.*

