

August 2009

Oregon PTA joins coalition to Defend Oregon

Fight begins to protect critical funding for schools and services for children.

Most of our state budget, 93% goes to pay for education, health care and public safety. The legislative session is now in the past but the work of protecting school funding and services for children has just begun.

Like most states, Oregon is in a deep recession. The Oregon legislature addressed this crisis through a combination of program cuts, increased efficiencies, temporary federal stimulus dollars, and targeted tax increases on corporations and the wealthy.

A group of big businesses and anti-tax ideologues are trying to repeal two parts of this package by gathering signatures to force a statewide election. If they are successful, a special election will be held in January 2010.

PTA members all over Oregon know what it means if our schools are forced to take additional cuts. We urge you to get the facts about what is at stake and join in us in fighting to protect our schools and kids.

Go to Defend Oregon www.defendoregon.org to learn more. Please tell your PTA members, friends and family about what is at stake. More information on how you can help will be available at PTA summer training camps and in future newsletters.

Get the facts and get involved, help us fight for schools and kids.

Common School Fund helps fund all Oregon schools

Fund value declines but still provides \$20 million for schools

The Common School Fund was created at statehood, the federal government granted Oregon roughly six percent of the new state's land to support public schools. The Oregon Constitution dedicates the income from those lands and their mineral, timber and other resources to the Common School Fund.

The fund is controlled by the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer

who make up the State Land Board. Even in tough financial times the investments in the fund provide additional funds for all Oregon schools.

Learn more about the Common School Fund: [Click Here](#)