

Representative Dennis Richardson
House District 4 • Jackson and Josephine Counties

*State Capitol • 900 Court Street NE, H392 • Salem, OR 97301
(503) 986-1404 • FAX (503) 986-1590*



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Peter Coyl
503-986-1404

Richardson Announces Bill To Fund Education First

Representative Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point) today announced legislation that will require Legislators to pass a budget for schools within the first 81 days of the legislative session.

“HJR 21 eliminates the politics of delay,” said Rep. Dennis Richardson, “Passing an education budget within 81 days gives school districts the opportunity to determine their funding before the fiscal year begins.”

House Joint Resolution 21 would amend the constitution to require the Legislative Assembly to pass a budget funding the primary educational system within the first two and a half months of session. If a budget for kindergarten through grades 12 were not passed within the first 81 days Legislators would forfeit their per diem and salaries until the education budget is passed.

Despite past efforts to fund schools first, education budgets in both the 2003 and 2005 sessions were passed in August, far too late to allow for effective school district funding decisions.

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