

Education

State Treasurer's bill saves money for schools

With education funding becoming more critical and complex, State Treasurer Jim Hill has stepped up his efforts this session and introduced legislation that will save money for Oregon schools, providing additional resources within school budgets to help fund K-12 education.

Treasurer Hill has introduced legislation that will save school districts money by allowing the districts to use the state's bond rating when issuing debt. The legislation, entitled the Oregon School Bond Guaranty Act, allows districts to use

the state's AA rating, which is higher than most rural and smaller districts. The bill, which gained full support from the House Revenue Committee and passed unanimously on the House floor, could save Oregon schools \$5 million in the first year alone and as much as \$22 million in the first five years.

"As a state we need to come together and do whatever we can to see that all Oregon children have the best education possible," Hill said. "With the school budget as tight as it is, any amount of savings will be critical for many

districts. The Oregon School Bond Guaranty Act has a single purpose, and that is to save money. It will allow schools to use that savings as additional resources to enhance the quality of elementary and secondary education in Oregon."

"Since becoming Treasurer back in 1993, I have been constantly working to maintain and enhance Oregon's bond rating," Hill said. "That work has paid off with the state's recent rating upgrade, and now it's my hope that it will pay off for our schools as well."

Parents get online edge

With over 7 million American kids already online, and analysts predicting that over 20 million children will be online by the year 2002, it's time for even the most technically challenged parent to learn the basics of the Internet.

And it's easier than ever, thanks to a new book that takes a humorous, practical approach to the subject.

"GoodParents.com: What every good parent should know about the Internet" isn't like any other computer book ever written. Written by Robert Maynard, a former Internet executive who is also a parent, the book offers simple tips that parents can begin using immediately to shepherd their kids into the networked world of the future even if the parents have no need to use a computer at all.

Maynard, a father of two, puts it simply. "I wrote this book to give even the most computer-phobic parent enough skills to get their kids started in the right direction, keep an eye on what they are doing, and help keep them safe without having to become an expert on the computer or the Internet. I tried to do this while giving parents a chuckle or two along the way."

The book, which comes with a CD-ROM filled with software and a 30-day money-back guarantee, is now available directly from the publisher, The Fidelis Group, at 800/GOODPARENTS (800/466-3727). It can also be ordered on-line through the company's web site (<http://www.goodparents.com>).

Maynard, a well-known Internet expert as well as a parent, takes the fear out of the world's most child-accessible technology in his new book. It's filled with tips and techniques that help parents teach—and monitor—their kids online activities. Some of the tips are simple, common-sense ideas, and others may surprise even the most computer-literate parent.

For example, one of the best ways to encourage kids to steer clear of material parents find objectionable is to move the computer into the family room, kitchen or hallway. Even the boldest teenager will think twice, Maynard says, before visiting many sites if he knows mom or dad might walk by at any minute.

"This book isn't about censorship, and it isn't intended to scare parents. It's a guidebook for parents, by parents, that de-mystifies the Internet and helps give our kids the tools, techniques and appropriate parental supervision they need to get online safely," Maynard says. "The book helps parents set clear guidelines for

Host families needed

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic program homestays, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) Executive Director, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50.00 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

Portland area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-800-631-1818.

kids on-line, and outlines ways to help kids get involved in age-appropriate on-line activities. It's easier than parents think

— and probably more rewarding, too."

"GoodParents.com: What every good parent should know about the Internet" is now available directly from the publisher, The Fidelis Group, at 800/GOODPARENTS (800/466-3727). The book includes a CD-ROM that contains trial versions of useful software, including Internet access software, a program called SafeSearch that gives parents control over where kids go on the Internet, plus educational titles from Whole Village Technology's OpenMedia collection.

The GoodParents.com web site (<http://www.goodparents.com>) includes a discussion forum for parents, reviews by parents of computer-related products, and tips for parents whose kids are active online. The Fidelis Group is dedicated to bringing relevant and important Internet-related products and services to families worldwide. Contact the company at 972/208-1225.



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Diversity

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Community

What's the matter with kids today?



ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

As part of this year's Pacific Power Rose Festival Kids Program, 500 students from 17 area elementary schools pitched in to make our community a better place to live.

Pacific Power salutes these young citizens for their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication to our community. Some of their efforts include:

- cleaning up the environment
- planting native trees and shrubs
- raising food, supplies and money for the needy
- volunteering at the Special Olympics
- working with seniors and lots more.

Participating Schools: Abernethy Elementary, Capitol Hill Elementary, Chapman Elementary, D.A. Grout Elementary, Eastside Education Center, Edwards Elementary, Floyd Light Middle School, Franciscan Montessori Earth School, The International School, Our Lady of Sorrow, Rigler Elementary, St. John Fisher, St. Stephens, Stephenson Elementary, Vernon Elementary, Vestal Elementary and Woodmere Elementary.

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THE PARENT'S JOURNAL

Guide to Raising Great Kids

Bobbi Conner, the host of public radio's weekly program "The Parent's Journal," culls the best advice from a decade of interviews with celebrated childcare experts in *The Parent's Journal Guide to Raising Great Kids*, a warm-hearted guide to life's toughest job.

BANTAM