

Student Success

The Student Success Act will provide additional funds in key areas

The Student Success Act was signed into law in May 2019. When fully implemented the act will invest approximately \$1 billion annually for early learning and K-12 education.

The SSA will be divided into three areas: 20% to Early Learning; 50% to the Student Investment Account; and 30% for Statewide Education Initiatives.

Half of the SSA funds — \$500 million — will be designated as the Student Investment Account and made available to school districts and charter schools through non-competitive grants.

Student Investment Account

The Student Investment Account has these key areas for improvement:

- Reducing class size
- Increasing instructional time
- Addressing health and safety needs
- Ensuring a well-rounded education

Betty Palmer, assistant superintendent, helped draft a Continuous Improvement Plan that addresses needs in Baker School District. She said reducing class size doesn't apply locally because classes are already fairly small compared to districts on the west side of Oregon.

The health and safety needs component, she said, refers to both mental health for students as well as the safety of the district's facilities.

Well-rounded educational opportunities refers to college and career guidance and counseling, STEM, community involvement, accelerated learning, and subject including music, art, history, civics, economics, geography, government, foreign language, and environmental education

The SSA requires school districts to engage their community to determine the best investments for students while

What is the Student Success Act?

From oregon.gov:

During the 2019 legislative session, Oregon's leaders made a real commitment to our children, our educators, our schools and our state with the passage of the Student Success Act. When fully implemented, the Student Success Act is expected to invest \$2 billion in Oregon education every two years; that's a \$1 billion investment in early learning and K-12 education each year. Of those funds, \$200 million goes into the State School Fund and the remaining is distributed into three accounts: the Early Learning Account, the Student Investment Account and the Statewide Education Initiatives Account.

How do districts get funds?

Some funds are distributed by the Oregon Department of Education. For specific programs, districts can apply for grants.

focusing on mental and behavioral health, addressing disparities based on race or disability, and improving teaching and learning conditions.

Palmer presented information about the SSA at a parent advisory meeting, and elementary school principals have included the topic in their talks at the parent-teacher organizations.

Applications for funds from the Student Investment Account are due in March.

Meet your school board

We asked: How long have you lived in Baker City?
How long have you served on the board?
What's your favorite school memory?

Chris Hawkins

I have lived in Baker for 15 years. I have been on the school board for six years. My favorite memory from school is graduating!



Chris Hawkins

Andrew Bryan

Ann and I moved to Baker the first of September 2003. This is my 10th year on the board.

My favorite memory from school, other than chasing my friend Noel around the playground in 1st grade in San Antonio, Texas, at the Keystone School, was being a part of a small group who started my new public high school's first literary magazine, Endymion, at James Taylor High School in Katy, Texas. Did we ever think we were on the road to be the next Whitmans, Frosts, and Kerouacs!

I later repeated the same experience in college as a Poetics student in the General Honors Program at the University of New Mexico, where another small group of us students created Scribendi, a national literary magazine for honors college students from across the country. This magazine is still in publication today.



Andrew Bryan

Kevin Cassidy

I was born in Baker in 1970 at what is now St. Elizabeth Towers. I have served on the school board since 2013 so approaching seven years.

My fondest memory is the continued lifelong friendships amongst my classmates and teachers that I still enjoy today!



Kevin Cassidy

Katie Lamb

We've lived in Baker City for 18 years. I've been on the school for 2.5 years.

My favorite memory is the day I met my best friend. We met the first day of third grade. Thirty-seven years later, she is still my best friend.



Katie Lamb

Julie Huntington

I've lived in Baker since 1981. I've been on the school board for two years. I remember being really excited to be heading to a new junior high in Great Falls, Montana, from my small base elementary school. We toured it and were so excited about the new opportunities we would have.



Julie Huntington