

Statement	Pro	Con
K-12 schools in Oregon should be safe	Students need a sense of physical and psychological safety for learning to occur, since fear and anxiety undermine cognitive capacity prevent learning.	Schools should focus on the 3R's.
K-12 schools in Oregon should be healthy	Environmental toxins in schools affect attention, intelligence, and behavior, and can cause cancer.	It is up to parents to define, enforce, and oversee how health issues apply to their child, not the public schools.
K-12 schools in Oregon should be welcoming	Psychological safety depends on a positive and inclusive atmosphere where pupils feel comfortable expressing themselves	Learning how to express themselves in a hostile environment is good training for later on.
Oregon should prioritize that K-12 schools be safe places.	Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs highlights that safety is a basic need which must be met in order for students to learn.	Oregon's students perform poorly on standardized tests. That should be the priority.
K-12 schools must not discriminate against any students.	Discrimination undermines the fundamental right to education and can lead to significant disparities in academic achievement and social development.	Our schools should prioritize educating citizens, not immigrants.
K-12 students should have access to mental health resources in schools.	Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act as well as how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices.	Providing mental health resources takes time and money from the real purpose of school – learning.
Oregon schools should follow evidence-based social-emotional learning standards.	Social-emotional learning raises achievement and lowers discipline rates.	Our teachers have enough to do trying to teach to academic standards.
Adults in schools should be trained in evidence-based practices to build connections with K-12 students	Knowing THAT something should be taught is not the same as knowing research-informed practices of HOW to teach it and being coached in how to adapt the practices to student needs.	Professional development time and money should be spent on helping teachers increase students' test scores.

Oregon should not use physical restraint/seclusion to discipline students.	Physical restraint/seclusion can be abusive and even lead to death.	Restraint and seclusion may be all that works with some students.
Oregon schools should not use suspension/expulsion to discipline students.	This approach to discipline is not effective, and it is disproportionately used with minority students as well as those with disabilities.	The threat of suspension/expulsion may be the only method that works with some students.
Oregon should promote strong family-school connections	School-family connections lead to improved academic achievement, social skills, and motivation to learn.	Our educators have enough to do - focusing on their students – they should be doing a better job of that.
Oregon K-12 schools should have class sizes that are appropriate for the age level	Reduced class sizes permit teachers to know their students' needs and are related to higher achievement.	Hiring more teachers to lower class sizes costs too much – it is not a wise use of limited education money.
K-12 schools should follow practices that encourage positive relationships in classrooms	Practices such as small learning communities, looping, etc. enable teachers to know their students so that they can build on student background knowledge.	Teachers need to do a better job of educating students in traditional settings before considering changes.
School districts should publish and make easily accessible current results of environmental tests conducted in their schools	Parents and other taxpayers have a right to know results of the most recent tests. Yet currently this is not done for all districts.	If someone needs to know current results of environmental tests, they should call the district office.
School districts should publish and make easily accessible information about current remediation of environmental concerns in their buildings.	Parents and other taxpayers have a right to know whether and how school districts are mitigating health problems in schools. Yet currently this is not done for all districts.	If someone needs to know current results of environmental tests, they should call the district office.
School facilities should be in good repair.	The average age of school buildings in Oregon is 56 years. Older buildings are vulnerable to earthquakes and other hazards.	Support for academic programs is more important in a time of depleted funds.
Guns should be prohibited in K-12 schools	Guns pose a deadly risk to the safety of students and school faculty. Armed guards have not prevented the most deadly school	People who are skilled in using guns should be armed in schools so that they can stop a shooter.

	shootings in recent American history. In fact, the rate of death in school shooting incidents has been 2.83 times greater in schools with armed guards on the scene than in those without.	
Oregon should set parameters for districts that permit arming school personnel.	Most districts in Oregon permit guns on campus, so it is important that the state set limits.	School districts know their needs better than the state.
State funding should ensure that students in K-12 school buildings are safe.	Many districts do not have the financial base or public support for the funding needed to invest in improvements to facilities.	Districts can ask people to pass a local bond issue to repair buildings.
State funding should ensure that all K-12 school buildings are healthy	Requiring districts to test, mitigate, and report regarding environmental risks is an unfunded mandate unless the state provides funds.	This mandate never should have been enacted, since only local districts should determine how taxes are raised and spent.
Oregon should fund practices that promote students' well-being	Funding was allocated in 2024-25 to implement the state's social-emotional standards but not since then.	The state has limited funds. There are other priorities for a balanced budget.
State funding should provide resources that reflect the diversity of Oregon's children.	A third of the students in K-12 schools in Oregon have reported never or rarely seeing people like them or their families.	Taxpayer money should be used to pay for the education of US citizens.