

Sports Lottery: Opening Access Doors for Oregonians

Budget Overview

For more than 17 years, Sports Lottery funding has recognized that not all Oregonians find their way to higher education through the same route, or have the same needs once they arrive on campus. Funding intercollegiate athletics and academic scholarships through the Sports Lottery has a **proven positive effect on enrollment, retention and diversity** for about 3,000 students every year at Oregon's public universities, particularly those with smaller athletic programs.

While Sports Lottery funding was eliminated in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2017-19, the Council of Presidents hope it will be continued in the Co-Chairs' Budget framework at the full statutory appropriation of 1% of lottery funds, or \$12.8 million. Funding in 2015-17 totaled \$8.2 million. Legislators have shown their commitment to these student-athletes in the past, and a continuing investment will produce improved degree outcomes for a diverse group of Oregonians, a win for Oregon's workforce and its economy.

Providing Access for All Oregonians

Across Oregon, students have been able to enroll in a public university, thanks to Sports Lottery funding, when they might otherwise not have had access to college. Investment in student-athletes supports the overall goal of **student diversity** at every level: gender, geographic, ethnic, and economic background. The universities use some of their Sports Lottery funding for student-athlete scholarships, providing affordable access and **increased degree outcomes**. More than 75 percent of all Sports Lottery funding, on average, supports basic access through scholarships, with the rest supporting athletics' operations and support.

Sports Lottery funding is also the primary way that campuses are able to meet **Title IX requirements to equitably fund women's athletics programs**. De-funding of Sports Lottery will have a quick and direct impact on female and male athletes, and rural areas in Oregon, as well as on the overall operations of intercollegiate sports, especially at those campuses which do not receive PAC-12 related broadcast and other related revenues.

Besides the access benefits, Sports Lottery funding — especially at the Technical and Regional universities and at Portland State — has immense **economic impact** on the communities in which the campuses reside. Athlete travel in Oregon, and by competing out-of-state teams, brings much needed revenue to cities and towns across the state when teams pay for accommodations, meals, fuel and other services and supplies used.

Being engaged in intercollegiate athletics while pursuing a degree has a positive effect on student performance. Data show that the average student-athlete has **better retention rates, GPAs and graduation rates** than the overall student population.

Funding for Athletics and Scholarships

Sports Lottery is divided into funding for **intercollegiate athletics (88 percent) and graduate student academic scholarships (12 percent)**. Generally, the graduate student scholarship support annually provides about \$500,000. These funds are used for both merit- and need-based aid, helping almost 200 graduate students a year. These scholarships offer invaluable help to graduate students who are not eligible for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Pell Grant, and other programs generally reserved for undergraduate students.

History of Sports Lottery Funding

In 1989 the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3262, giving the Oregon Lottery statutory authority to establish a sports betting program. The Sports Action Lottery game was a way to fund intercollegiate athletics at Oregon's seven public institutions. With the 2005 passage of HB 3466, the legislature removed the statutory authority for the Lottery to run sports betting games. The bill replaced the revenue to the public institutions with a guaranteed one percent of the lottery money transferred to the Economic Development Fund. The public institutions received the guaranteed one percent for only one biennium. In subsequent biennia the legislature reduced the funding level.

Allocations Current legislation caps the allocation for Oregon State University and University of Oregon at \$1 million each. The remaining \$6 million is divided among the other five institutions, with the allocation formula including the average cost of sports, average number of participants, and the level of effort each campus puts into its programs. The public universities have agreed to a new allocation formula that does not necessitate caps and provides institutional equity.

Sports Lottery: Examples of Campus Impacts

Eastern Oregon University Many rural, first-generation and low-income students could not attend EOU without Sports Lottery scholarships. The program also helps fund assistant coaches through the graduate assistant program, allowing EOU to work closely with rural, place-bound students who are not able to relocate, but want to further their education in a graduate program.

Oregon Tech Sports Lottery funding has economic impacts in Klamath Falls, and across Oregon. The rooms booked and meals eaten during sports travel within Oregon provide direct support in rural areas and small towns such as Burns and Oakridge. Supporting athletics in rural areas improves student diversity in all regards: rural, low income, first-generation, and students of color.

Oregon State University In combination with other departmental and college-based resources, Sports Lottery funding is an important source of graduate/professional student financial aid, providing access to students of color in advanced degree programs. Half of the funds are awarded on academic merit alone, with the remaining on the basis of financial need and merit.

Portland State University PSU utilizes its Sports Lottery funding for student-athlete scholarships for its Division I sports programs, and has seen the academic performance rate of these students steadily increase over the past few years. These funds increase opportunities for students who are not financially supported by other means; and help increase retention and graduation rates of PSU student-athletes, allowing for their growth and success both on and off the field.

Southern Oregon University Sports Lottery is a primary funding source for SOU athletics, and maintenance of these funds will support student-athlete travel and overall operational services. SOU student-athletes have a freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 89 percent and a graduation rate that is 20 percent higher than the overall student body. Student-athletes also increase the university's diversity, benefiting both students whose paths to higher education are tied to sports and those who are enriched by the inclusive campus community.

University of Oregon Sports Lottery Funding is a critical component of the UO's post-baccalaureate professional/graduate student scholarship program. Without the state's investment, support of 45 graduate students with need and merit based scholarships would not be possible. These funds also provide scholarships to student athletes and help ensure that women's athletics programs are equitably funded.

Western Oregon University Western Oregon, the only NCAA Division II public university in the state, utilizes sports lottery funding to primarily support student-athlete grant-in-aids. During the 2016-17 year, 71 percent of WOU's 336 student-athletes received financial aid, with 62 percent receiving lottery funding as part or all of their total. Sports lottery funding at WOU has made an enormous impact on female student-athletes, who receive sixty percent of WOU's lottery funding.

For More Information: contact Dana Richardson at the Oregon Council of Presidents at richardsond@wou.edu, or the government relations staff member from any of the seven public universities. Thank you for helping Oregon's students.

Number of Student-Athletes Benefiting from Sports Lottery 2015-16	
Institution	Student-Athletes
EOU	348
OIT	243
OSU	500
PSU	311
SOU	443
UO	546
WOU	443
TOTAL	2,834

