

July 2013

Word Count 252

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## QuickPoint! –Tip of the Education Iceberg

By William Newell

When you think of a school, you probably imagine classrooms filled with students and teachers, not employee offices. The reality is that highly compensated administrators and non-teaching support staff outnumber Oregon's K-12 teachers.

The growth of administrative and non-teaching support staff has [more than tripled that of students and teachers since 1992](#). In the last 21 years, the student population has grown by only 15.4 percent and teachers by only 12.7 percent. At the same time, the ranks of administrators and non-teaching support staff have grown by a staggering 47.3 percent.

The growth in staff hasn't improved student achievement. Oregon fourth and eighth grade National Assessment of Educational Progress test scores in math and reading have regressed to or fallen below the national average. In 2013, Oregon received a "C" from [Education Week](#) and a "D-" from [StudentsFirst](#), two respected education research organizations.

Rudy Crew, Oregon's recently departed chief education officer, [abused his spending privileges and did little to improve Oregon schools](#), ultimately showing the top-heavy system's main flaws. Sadly, the top education bureaucrat's \$280,000 salary and gold-plated benefits package are just the tip of the education iceberg.

If administrative and support employment had grown in line with students, Oregon could have saved more than \$300 million annually or hired almost 3,782 teachers compensated at \$80,000 each.\* Going forward, schools must refocus their priorities back on the classroom and away from the education bureaucracy.

\*Teacher compensation was calculated by taking the average Oregon K-12 teacher salary of \$57,000 plus 40% for benefits.

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*William Newell is a research associate at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free-market think tank.*