



Mark Mulvihill, *Superintendent*

Kelly Bissinger, *Board Chair* | Merle Comfort, *Vice Chair*

Dale Bingham | Joe McElligott | Steve Muller | Maria Sanchez | Verneda Wagner

2022-23 Superintendent Budget Message **May 9, 2022**

The 2022-23 IMESD budget is the culmination of an extensive strategic planning process for the agency. All 18 component districts unanimously approved the 2022-23 Local Service Plan (LSP), which provides the structure for all budgetary decisions. The process enables us to “Budget a Plan,” rather than “Plan a Budget.”

The past year was challenging due to the evolving nature of the pandemic. However, the response by our agency was outstanding. We helped stabilize the region, implemented statewide mandates, advocated effectively at the state level, and responded to staff and student needs in a safe, proactive manner. IMESD’s solid financial position played a critical role by providing a foundation for creative, responsive decision-making. It is critical the 2022-23 budget provides this same sense of stability, due to the myriad of anticipated challenges facing our districts.

The 2022-23 budget was developed through a comprehensive strategic planning process. We are entering the second year of the 2021-23 biennium, which provides reliable revenue projections. We are also honoring the final year of our Collective Bargaining Agreements, including the negotiated 3% COLA and \$50 insurance increase for each employee.

2022-23 IMESD Budget Highlights

IMESD’s budget is built on four major revenue sources: General Fund, Contract and Grants, Entrepreneurial, and District-Paid Services. Due to the significant growth in Contracts and Grants, the 2022-23 budget totals \$67 million, a 9% increase. We are projecting 279 employee positions, an increase of 6%.

General Fund 94% of the general fund is allocated to the programs identified within the Local Service Plan. Despite a slight decrease in student enrollment, we anticipate a relatively flat revenue projection due to increased administrative fees charged to Contracts and Grants. General Fund highlights include:

- 2.0 FTE staffing increase to Special Education
- 2.0 FTE staffing increase to Technology
- Account coding change in the Virtual Learning Academy to stabilize program
- The Ending Fund Balance will be maintained at \$4,800,000

Contracts and Grants IMESD is one of the largest per capita public education contractors in the state. We facilitate an expansive list of P-20 programs in 7 eastern Oregon counties. These federal and state contracts continue to expand in response to COVID-19, special education, and early learning needs. Highlights for our largest programs include:

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.



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- 3.5 FTE staffing increase to Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
- 2.5 FTE staffing increase for Regional Inclusive Services
- 4.5 FTE staffing increase for Regional Educator Network
- Carryover of unspent allocations due to delay in contracts awarded by ODE

Entrepreneurial and District-Paid Services IMESD builds additional program capacity through its Entrepreneurial and District-Paid activities. The Entrepreneurial program provides contracted services to non-component, non-profit organizations, and government entities. District-paid services are provided to component districts desiring additional services beyond the Local Service Plan. Highlights include:

- The largest Entrepreneurial contracts are provided by the technology, procurement, and communications departments.
- The majority of the District-Paid contracts are provided by the technology, Virtual Learning Academy, business services and special education administration departments.
- 3.0 FTE staffing increase to Technology
- The IMESD cooperative will transfer resources to the capital projects fund to help offset the purchase of the warehouse.

Facilities IMESD continues to strategically prioritize facility expansion to meet the needs of the organization. The 2022-23 budget reflects funding allocations based upon our strategic plan:

- IMESD will purchase the warehouse located on Airport Road in Pendleton. The sales price is \$675,000 and will be paid for by a combination of Capital Project Fund resources and the Cooperative. (AEPA receipts).
- The Capital Projects Fund will charge the programs occupying the warehouse rent to support future repairs and maintenance to IMESD properties.
- IMESD will continue to lease new office and classroom space in La Grande, Pendleton, and Hermiston. The additional space allows for expansion of EI/ECSE, Migrant, special education, instructional and technology staff.

In summary, the 2022-23 budget reflects a vibrant, growing organization. We are pleased to present a budget that grows quality services and establishes innovative programs. Due to the multiple revenue streams, the budget is a fluid document, designed to be nimble and responsive to unanticipated requests. I appreciate the commitment of our staff in developing the budget and thank the budget committee for their oversight in the process.

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