



Oregon Department of Administrative Services  
155 Cottage Street NE, U20  
Salem, Oregon 97301-3966

# News Release

For Immediate Release  
August 10, 2010

Contact:  
Lonn Hoklin, Public Affairs Manager, DAS  
503.378.2627  
lonn.hoklin@state.or.us

State sells School for Blind to Salem Hospital for \$6 million  
Proceeds to be split between Blind Fund and Oregon School for Deaf

Salem—The state of Oregon has agreed to sell the site formerly used by the Oregon School for the Blind to Salem Hospital, the state Facilities Division announced on Tuesday.

Following a period of “due diligence,” the hospital will pay the state \$6 million for the 8.37-acre site, which is located at 700 Church Street in Salem.

State officials are pleased with the sale agreement. “We have worked hard to achieve the legislature’s goal of finding the best use for this property and maximizing revenues that will benefit blind and deaf students,” said Robin Harpster, administrator of the Oregon Facilities Division. “This solution does both. The agreement reflects the state’s commitment to ensuring that blind and deaf students receive the support they need to receive a first-rate education.”

In 2009, the Legislature enacted HB 2834, which called for closing the Oregon School for the Blind. The bill directed the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to work with the Oregon Department of Education to shut the school down and sell the property. A budget note required DAS to report to the Legislature in February 2010 and present a plan for disposition of the property. The sales agreement with Salem Hospital is the final outcome of that plan.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed a bill in March that divides net proceeds from the sale equally between a fund for the blind and the School for the Deaf. Half the money will go into Blind and Visually Impaired Fund, created in 2009, to provide resources and education services to visually impaired students across the state. The other half will go to support improvements, repairs and maintenance at the Oregon School for the Deaf, also in Salem.

Salem Hospital has a 60-day period of due diligence to investigate the property fully, which includes detailed engineering, survey, title, cost and other considerations to confirm that the property meets the hospital’s needs. If the hospital finds the property suitable, the sale could become final as early as mid-October.