

Education Update



Rob's Blog

Message from Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton

Now that we are well into the 2014-15 school year, I wanted to take a moment to talk about a very important topic – School Safety. I know all of you take the safety of your students incredibly seriously. All of our school districts have safety plans and procedures in place in case of a natural disaster or other emergency. But as important as strong safety plans are, regular practice and training in following these plans is even more important. Ensuring that both students and staff know how to respond quickly and calmly to emergency situations can and does save lives.

Living where we do, it is only a matter of time before our region experiences a large earthquake. Scientists predict there is a 40% chance of a major 9.0 or higher earthquake hitting our state within the next 50 years. Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a fault line stretching from California to British Columbia, that is due for a mega quake similar to the one that devastated Japan in 2011.

In order to help prepare students and staff to respond to such an event, many schools will be participating this month in the Great Oregon Shake Out. This annual event provides an opportunity for students and staff to practice appropriate drop, cover, and hold on procedures and can count as one of the two earthquake drills required annually in our schools. The event will take place on October 16 at 10:16 AM, and you can learn more or register online at <http://shakeout.org/oregon/>. The website also has safety tips and information about how to prepare for an earthquake.

In addition to the two earthquake drills schools must conduct each year, there are also regular fire drill requirements, tsunami drills where appropriate, and, as of 2013, two annual safety threat drills. [House Bill 2789](#), which was adopted by the Oregon Legislature in 2013, introduced the requirements around safety threat drills. These drills should include appropriate actions to take (such as lockdown procedures) when there is a threat to safety at the school. At least two safety threat drills per year have been required since July 1, 2013.

As we saw in the tragic incident at Reynolds High School last year, such planning and training is of vital importance. The staff and students in Reynolds reacted quickly and decisively to move into lockdown, and their handling of the event prevented what could have been an even worse tragedy. I encourage all school districts to conduct at least one of their safety threat drills early in the school year to ensure students and staff are prepared to respond in the event of an emergency.

I also encourage you to explore the resources available on our [website](#) around school safety and to reach out to our staff if you have any questions or need additional support. Thank you for everything you do every day to keep our students safe. Wishing you a wonderful – and safe – start to the school year.

With gratitude for all you do,

Steps to Success

Articles and Resources Relating to the Common Core, the Oregon Diploma, the Essential Skills, and More...

2014 Science Standards and ELP Standards

The Oregon 2014 Science Standards (NGSS) and the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards are both now available on the [Standards by Design website](#). Available in PDF or Excel format, users can customize the standards by grade-level, downloading only those standards they want. For more information please contact [Sarah Martin](#) (Standards by Design), [Jamie Ramage](#) (Science), or [Tim Blackburn](#) (ELP Standards).

“Future Ready District Pledge”

The U.S. Department of Education is inviting districts to sign a [Future Ready District Pledge](#) stating their commitment to personalized digital learning. Selected pledge districts will receive supports and an invitation to participate in a professional community to assist them in their conversion. More information on the opportunity can be found [here](#).

ELPA21 Field Test

The English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) Consortium is working with its field test vendor, Questar Assessment Inc., to prepare for the upcoming pilot test and field test. The pilot test is scheduled for December, 2014 and the field test for February through March, 2015. Details and more specific dates will be coming soon for how districts across Oregon can participate in these key events. Please watch ODE announcements for additional information as it becomes available. Find information about ELPA21 at the consortium’s web page, www.elpa21.org. Please contact ode.elpa21fieldtest@state.or.us with questions about ELPA21 in Oregon.



Youth Development Grants

The Oregon Youth Development Council (YDC) is now in the process of distributing \$5.24 million in grants to 70 applicants through four grant funds that align with the council’s mission to reconnect youth ages 16-20 to education and career, establish a secure connection for youth ages 6-16 with education and career, or address youth violence and crime. These awards represent the implementation of a new funding process developed by the council focused on need and equity. The awards were ratified by the council at a special meeting on July 31. These grants are being awarded for a 10 month period, the remainder of the current biennium. Requests for Applications for the 2015-2017 biennium will be announced in early 2015. [Click here](#) for more information, or contact YDC Executive Director [Iris Bell](#) at 503-378-6250.

K-12 OER Collaborative

The K-12 OER (Open Education Resources) Collaborative, a state-led initiative facilitated by CCSSO (Council of Chief State School Officers) and launched in February 2014, is pleased to announce that it has secured the support of 10 states for its work, including Oregon. The objective of the K-12 OER Collaborative is to create comprehensive, high-quality, open education resources supporting K-12 math and English language arts aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). [Sarah Haavind](#), [Mark Freed](#), and [Nicole Dalton](#) are the points of contact for Oregon’s participation in this collaborative. To learn more or subscribe to the K-12 OER newsletter, [click here](#).

Teacher Talk

Articles and Resources Relating to Curriculum, Instruction, Special Programs, and More...

Resources for Educator Evaluation

As districts continue to refine their educator evaluation and support systems, there are a variety of resources available in ODE's [Educator Effectiveness Toolkit](#) to support this work:

[Oregon Framework for Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Systems \(UPDATED\)](#) – Guidance for the development of district evaluation and support systems.

[Guidance for Setting Student Learning and Growth \(SLG\) Goals](#) – Describes the SLG Goal setting process and includes templates for teacher and administrator goal setting.

[Oregon Assessment Guidance](#) – Includes Oregon Criteria for High Quality Assessments, which districts can use to evaluate the quality of purchased or internally developed assessments.

[Oregon Matrix Model for Educator Evaluation](#) – The Matrix describes the process for combining multiple measures to determine the educator's overall performance level and professional growth plan.



CTE Innovation Summit

Join educators from across the state sharing experiences in implementing successful strategies in secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The CTE Innovation Summit will be held at Lane Community College on November 7, 2014. Registration is free. Session topics will include: *Getting the Message Across, Helping Students Navigate, Entrepreneurship, Recruiting and Building Talent, Keeping Relevant, Certification for Success, and Equity*. We encourage people to register as part of a secondary team. More information about the conference and links to the registration can be found on the [CTE Revitalization Grant website](#). Contact [Linda Simeone](#) with questions regarding the summit.

Free Online Course

Over 3,000 colleagues from all over the state of Oregon, as well as fellow ELPA 21 consortium states have registered for the [Supporting English Language Learners under New Standards](#) Massive Open Online Course. This course is free and open to anyone that would like to learn more about how to support English Learners as they navigate academic language and class content. Afraid you don't have the time? Sign up as an auditor and follow the class as your schedule allows! Please contact [Tim Blackburn](#) for additional information.

Regional Peer Review Panels

Though the Regional Peer Review Panels (PRP) are required as a part of Oregon's ESEA waiver, they are designed for more than just accountability. PRPs offer districts the opportunity to examine their current system and think about what their next steps might be to fully implement their evaluation and support systems. The PRPs are a conversation between districts within a region. Through this conversation, districts will receive feedback and it is expected that best practices throughout the state will emerge. Potential partnerships and collaborations between districts to support continuous improvement of their systems can also be identified through this process. ODE is working with ESDs to provide regional trainings for PRP panelists in September and October, 2014. ESD contacts will communicate with districts regarding the date and location of the training for their panelists. More information can be found on the [Peer Review Panel webpage](#). For additional information contact [Sarah Phillips](#) at 503-947-5783.

Student Wellness

Articles and Resources on Student Health, Wellness, Safety, and More...

2014 Place Matters Conference

The Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division invites you to a conference that addresses creating conditions and environments for tobacco free living, healthy eating, active living, and taking care of ourselves. The conference will be held Wednesday, November 19 – Friday, November 21, 2014 at the Hilton in Portland. The registration fee is \$50; \$25 for students and seniors. View the full and printable agendas for conference opportunities [here](#). Oregon Health Authority and State of Oregon employees are invited to attend with no registration fee.

Fight the Flu

- Get your seasonal flu vaccination.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your arm when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you become sick.

Go to flu.oregon.gov for more information.

Bike Safety

With several recent bicycle-car crashes – and students now back at school – ODOT and its partners are encouraging vigilance in sharing the road and watching out for one another. Safety advocates remind all users of the transportation system that even a small mistake can have big consequences, and nothing is more important than getting to your destination safe and sound. A new online publication called “The Driver’s Field Guide to Sharing Oregon’s Roads” is available, and it will complement a publication that appeared earlier this summer, “The Bicyclist’s Survival Guide.” Other educational [materials](#) are available on the Transportation Safety’s website to improve pedestrian safety. For a complete news release on bike safety, [click here](#).



Oregon Healthy Growth Survey

The 2012 Oregon Healthy Growth Survey is the first state-level effort to provide accurate, standardized data on weight status of elementary school-age children. Conducted during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, this survey contains important information about Oregon’s kids. Trained screeners weighed and measured over 5,000 children in first, second, and third grades across Oregon for height, weight, and body-mass index (BMI).

The survey found that nearly a third of Oregon’s 6-9 year olds are overweight or obese. All Oregon kids deserve opportunities for healthy growth and development regardless of their families’ income, race, ethnicity, or location. You can find the complete 2012 Oregon Healthy Growth Survey report [here](#).

Legal Corner

Articles and Resources on Rules, Statutes, Policy, Numbered Memos, and More...

Modified Diplomas in Graduation Reporting

ODE recently sent out a [numbered memo](#) on the change in guidance regarding the eligibility of students with modified and extended diplomas for federal financial aid: Oregon students who receive a modified diploma are now eligible to apply for federal financial aid. We have received a few questions from the field regarding how this impacts graduation reporting.

Oregon law requires school districts to offer two standard diplomas: the Oregon diploma and the modified diploma. Oregon law also allows districts to offer an honors diploma or other tiered diploma as a standard diploma. Based on the determination that a modified diploma meets the requirements for financial aid eligibility -- i.e. that it is 'the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma' -- ODE will include the modified diploma along with other standard diplomas when calculating the four and five year cohort graduation rates beginning with the 2013-14 rates (students in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 cohorts). ODE will not recalculate previously published rates. As in prior years' rates, Extended Diplomas, Adult High School Diplomas, and GEDs will be counted as completers but not as graduates. If you have questions about the [Cohort Graduation Rate](#) or [NCES Dropout Rate](#) calculations, please contact [Isabella Jacoby](#).

School Supply Scam

Warnings are being circulated to school districts across the country to be on the lookout for fake invoices for educational supplies. In just a few weeks, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) received more than 3,300 inquiries and nearly 100 complaints from schools in 26 states. The bogus invoices, from a company called Scholastic School Supply, show an amount due of \$647.50 for a bulk purchase of math or art books that were not ordered and never received. The invoices list an address in either Las Vegas or Sewell, N.J. Both are mail drops. Scholastic School Supply is not affiliated with Scholastic Inc., the global children's education company. The BBB's scam alert says the company does not respond to email messages. The phone number on the invoice is no longer in service.

Executive Memoranda

September 17, 2014 - [Executive Numbered Memo 001-2014-15](#) - English Learner Students with Disabilities Must Take ELPA

In July 2014, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) received new guidance from the United States Department of Education regarding English Learner Students with Disabilities (ELSWD). Under the new guidance ODE is no longer able to permit ELSWD to be exempted from all four domains of ELPA. Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, IEP teams may still make decisions about participation, including necessary accommodations, but those decisions cannot have the effect of excluding the student from ELPA participation.

September 23, 2014 - [Executive Numbered Memo 002-2014-15](#) - House Bill 2192: School Discipline

House Bill 2192 revises Oregon's school discipline code and requires school boards and districts to develop and implement policies and practices that focus on reducing unnecessary suspensions and expulsions. Administrators should carefully review the requirements of HB 2192 and work with staff in their districts to implement its provisions. Leaders should also engage in a regular review of discipline data at the district and school level and support professional development focused on alternative discipline practices for all school personnel. Key provisions of HB 2192 can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Opportunities

Articles and Resources on Scholarships, Grants, Professional Development, and More...

2014 OATAG Conference

The 2014 conference of the Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted (OATAG) will be held Saturday, October 18, at Pacific University in Forest Grove. This year's theme is "Every Child Counts: STEM and Gifted Students" with keynote speaker Dr. Susan Assouline from the University of Iowa. Registration starts at \$49 for OATAG members (\$29 for OATAG College Student members). Online registration ends October 9, 2014. OATAG is also offering workshops for students, accompanied by a registered adult, at \$29. Saturday Academy will provide sessions for grades 1-2 and 3-5. Path to Scholarship will provide a session for grades 7 and up. For more information and online registration visit: [2014 OATAG Conference](#).

Ethics Bowl

The Portland State University Philosophy Department is holding the [Oregon High School Ethics Bowl](#) on January 30 and 31, 2015. The High School Ethics Bowl is a national competition that promotes ethical awareness and the skills needed for a thoughtful, democratic citizenry. High School students from all over Oregon are invited to participate in this year's event, developing well-informed and persuasive positions on live ethical issues that could change the way we live together. For more information, contact [Dr. Alex Sager](#).

College Access Network Conference

The Oregon College Access Network's annual conference will be held on November 9-10, 2014 at Linfield College in McMinnville. Hear from experts across Oregon on *Collaborating to Create Access and Success*. There will be time for networking with colleagues as well as the first annual presentation of the OrCAN (Oregon College Access Network) Awards. Early bird registration is just \$25 for members until October 7. For more information [click here](#).



U.S. Presidential Scholars

The Oregon Department of Education is currently seeking nominations for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The mission of the program is to recognize and honor outstanding high school seniors and thereby to encourage high attainment among all students. All high school seniors graduating between January and June of 2015 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. If you know of an outstanding senior in your school or district who meets these criteria, we encourage you to submit his or her name to the Oregon Department of Education no later than November 7, 2014. [Click here](#) for details on what to submit. Please submit your nominations to [Jenni Deaton](#).

Public Relations Conference

The Oregon School Public Relations Association is holding a 2-day conference October 16-17, 2014 at the MODA Tower in Portland. This event is for anyone who finds themselves communicating critical events in Oregon schools. During this 2-day training, participants will take an "All Hazards" look at school crisis communications — from staff-student boundary violations to sex trafficking, to parking lot and playground injuries, campus shootings, classroom suicide, and more. You'll engage hands-on in a live social media exercise as a mock crisis event unfolds, just as it could in your district. And you'll leave with the tools that you need to freshen up, or write up, your district communications crisis plan. [Click here](#) for registration information.