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November 2019 Education Update

Oregon Achieves... Together!

A Message from the Director of the Oregon Department of Education,
Colt Gill



Colt Gill

Last month's release of [At-A-Glance School and District Profiles](#) provides parents with another tool to help them connect with districts about education. This comes at a very important time as school districts are engaging with students, families and their communities about the future of education under the Student Success Act.

The At-A-Glance School and District Profiles include graphics showing how a school or district compares to the statewide average in categories like chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, student academic progress and more. The profiles were developed with extensive input from Oregon families, including families of historically underserved students.

The data points represent a more comprehensive approach to evaluating and measuring a school's impact on students. In five minutes or less parents can get the comprehensive look at their school or district that they've been requesting. All of these changes are part of Oregon's Plan which is the state of Oregon's plan for meeting federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Oregon's Plan emphasizes partnership and shared accountability for student outcomes. The plan includes supports for those school districts most in need. Some of the prominent supports are technical assistance to guide school districts through continuous improvement planning and improvement coaches for school district administration staff.

Along with the profiles, we released the [Regular Attenders Report](#) which showed a halt in the rate of chronic absenteeism for the first time since we started reporting this data. The strategic work to decrease chronic absenteeism, as stated in the [Chronic Absenteeism Statewide Plan](#), began in the highest chronic absenteeism rate school districts in the 2018-19 school year and is showing positive improvements. Sixty of the 91 (65.9 percent) school districts receiving support, either directly from the ODE or through Regional Capacity Builders in regions of Education Service Districts, showed decreases or stability in chronic absenteeism rates from 2017-18 to 2018-19.

More than half (51.6 percent) showed decreases or stability in chronic absenteeism rates for historically underserved races and ethnicities and 58.2 percent showed decreases or stability in chronic absenteeism rates for students experiencing poverty.

Data is our partner and we put it to use to identify areas of need and track our progress in closing opportunity gaps. This data will inform the engagement opportunities that districts have with families, educators, students and community partners as we implement the historic investment provided by the Student Success Act.

Equity Focus



On October 1, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Safe and Inclusive Schools Team combined to amplify services to Oregon's diverse students and communities. The new team is applying an equitable, diverse and inclusive lens to their work to ensure ALL Oregon students attend the safest possible learning environments.

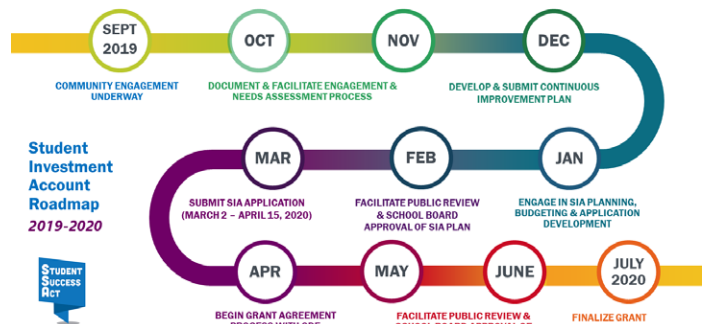
The Safe and Inclusive Team includes Emergency Management Director [Bryce McKenna](#) (503-947-5761) and School Safety and Emergency Management Analyst [Alex Haislip](#) (503-934-0614). Their work centers on providing Oregon's 197 school districts with professional training on the implementation of High Quality Emergency Operations Plans that is funded by ODE's Federal Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. As part of the team, School and Community Wellness Advocate [Jeremy Wells](#) (503-947-5872) serves as a communication conduit. Wells is a former teacher in Oregon schools and has the expertise to help new employees get up to speed as quick as possible. Wells will advocate for districts and communities that communicate concerns and find opportunities for ODE that impact their communities.

The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Safe and Inclusive Team's role in Student Success Act will primarily focus on Social Emotional Learning and supporting the Statewide School Safety & Prevention

Student Investment Account Update

New guidance coming soon! We've heard your request for more information to help you prepare to submit applications for the Student Investment Account (SIA). We're working hard to release guidance by early December to ensure all applicants stay on track for submission.

Share your engagement efforts! We love seeing stories from all over the state about community engagement. [Find us on Twitter @ORDeptEd](#) and by using the #studentsuccessact hashtag. Stay on track and check out the resources on the updated [Student Investment Account homepage](#). Keep up the great work!



ODE Partners With OSU to Launch Video Series

System around [HB 3427](#) (Section 36). This is an exciting time to be in the State of Oregon and EDI is poised to continue to do their amazing work. Stay tuned for future updates.

ODE's Partnership Approach Gains Momentum

ODE is proud to partner with our school districts throughout Oregon to foster equity and excellence for every learner. We're thankful for the encouraging feedback to our partnership approach that was documented in this recent [Oregonian article!](#)

ODE In the News

- The release of the Regular Attenders report resulted in several stories about how districts are combating chronic absenteeism including those by [OPB](#), [Salem Reporter](#), [Register-Guard](#), [Gresham Outlook](#) and [OSBA](#).
- The Oregon School for the Deaf hosted its 32nd Annual Nightmare Factory haunted house this year and [the Statesman Journal wrote about the student-led production](#).
- Two new members of the Early Learning Council got write-ups from the [Bend Bulletin](#) and [OSBA](#).

The Educator Advancement Council Seeks Two New Council Directors



The Oregon Department of Education's Child Nutrition Programs and OSU Extension's Food Hero campaign have teamed up to launch a new, 50-part video series on [Oregon Harvest for Schools](#), which educates students on healthy, Oregon food. The videos will be released monthly for the next few years.

[The first video](#) chronicles a young student's passion for her favorite lunch: salad greens from her school garden.

The vignettes will encourage young viewers to develop healthy relationships with Oregon-grown food by presenting a diverse group of students, farmers and adults harvesting, preparing, cooking, and serving Oregon-grown foods.

"Simply offering healthy food is not enough. When students learn about their food, they eat it and make lifelong healthy choices. The more they understand, the healthier they eat. We need to help students know where their food comes from," said Rick Sherman, Farm to School and School Garden Coordinator for ODE. "The video series allows students to see how whole fruit, veggie and other food groups come from the farm and end up on their cafeteria tray. And then they can learn about it in their classroom and see it on their cafeteria tray. It could change their eating habits for a lifetime."

The video launch is a capstone to the [National Farm to School Month](#) which celebrates food education, school gardens and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients.

Early Learning Hubs Leading SSA Engagement Across Communities

All 16 Early Learning Hubs are working with parents and

WHO: The Educator Advancement Council (EAC), an innovative public/nonprofit partnership created by the Oregon Legislature with the goal of ensuring all teachers and administrators have access to high-quality, culturally responsive professional learning and supports throughout their careers.

WHAT: EAC Directors provide vital, statewide decision-making as this exciting initiative enters implementation and continues to evolve.

The Educator Advancement Fund represents historic, equitable and sustainable investment extending support across both rural and urban school districts, leveraging resources through a new partnership involving public education agencies, ESDs, school districts, colleges and universities, federally-recognized tribes, community-based organizations professional education organizations and philanthropic partners with flexibility for local contexts and priorities.

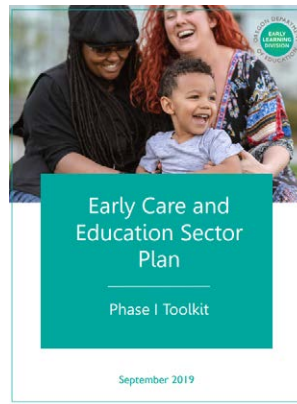
[Read more about the Regional Educator Networks launch](#), along with opportunities to engage at the local level.

GET INVOLVED: Please consider applying and/or share widely with potential candidates:

The Council specifically seeks diverse perspectives along with the geographic representation from Eastern, South Central Oregon and coastal regions:

- Early Learning Provider or Professional – applications due 11/30/19
- High School Teacher - applications due 12/31/19

HOW: To apply, please see application materials [on the EAC website](#) and to sign up for ongoing EAC updates. If you have any questions at all, [email Shadiin Garcia](#) or call her at 541-525-1099.



other community leaders to look at how investments from the Student Success Act will best serve families and children in their region. Hubs will complete their engagement work in mid-December and are using a [toolkit created by the Early](#)

[Learning Division](#).

Some of the work being done by Early Learning Hubs includes:

- Partnering with culturally-specific organizations to lead outreach sessions with parents.
- Creating task force groups within a region to collect data around family needs.
- Hosting screenings of the documentary film "No Small Matter" to spotlight the importance of early care and education.

The Early Learning Division will be sharing a survey in November to inform rules around the new Equity Fund. The fund would ensure that communities have the ability to serve children from historically underserved populations by building the capacity of culturally-specific organizations to offer high-quality supports. Grants will be awarded through a request for application process to fund culturally-specific programming to serve more than 2,500 children and address kindergarten readiness.

Other grant applications will open in January 2020 for organizations to access preschool and Relief Nursery funds.

More information on the Early Learning Account investments [can be found on the ELD website](#).

Nominate a Teacher Today!

It's that most wonderful time of the year! Not just the holidays; it's time to [nominate some great teachers for 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year!](#) Thanks to our partnership with the Oregon Lottery, the



Oregon Teacher of the Year program will again honor exemplary educators in every region of the state!

- [Nominations are open online](#) now through January 31.
- Teachers will submit their applications by March 27, 2020.
- [Education Service Districts](#) will select a winner from their region.
- Regional Teachers of the Year will be honored across the state in May 2020!
- One of the Regional Teachers of the Year will be named the 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year in September 2020!

Please help spread the word about nominations statewide! [Anyone can nominate a teacher](#) and your Regional Teacher of the Year will be in the running for the honor of 2021 Oregon Teacher of the Year. Please [contact program coordinator Jenni Knaus](#) with any questions.

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