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Oregon Department of Education

DECEMBER 2003



From the desk of Susan Castillo

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Washington, D.C.—This week I am in Washington, D.C., meeting with members of Congress and education leaders from throughout the nation. We are discussing how to pave a road of increased accountability, high standards, and proven results so that every single child is achieving his or her full potential. While we are looking forward, Kevin Mannix has released his plan which attempts to repave a road we have already traveled.

As I read the details of the plan to fill the more than \$800 million shortfall should Measure 30 fail in February, I noted (as did the Governors office, members of the legislature, education advocates, and policy experts) that this plan is not a list of novel ideas. It is a plan that calls for options that have been exhausted during this last legislative session and the six special sessions before.

Due to existing contracts, it is impossible for the state to freeze teachers' salaries across the board, and the legislature already factored in the PERS savings when appropriating \$5.2 billion for the State School Fund so the \$150 million savings referred to has already been calculated into district budgets.

Furthermore, the proposal to eliminate Oregon's assessment system is out-of-touch with the times. At the federal and state levels we are mandated to assess students and measure student progress, which provides the framework for our system of standards and accountability—two essential components of successful schools. Elimination of Oregon's testing system means elimination of federal education funds.

Here is an equation for you:

Save \$20 million by elimination of Oregon's Assessment system
Lose \$400 million from U.S. Department of Education
Net loss \$380 million

We must stop rehashing what has not worked in the past and set a clear vision for Oregon across political, county, and city lines to create a public financing structure that is fair, adequate, stable, and workable so that we can keep making Oregon a better place to live.

Please feel free to contact me at superintendent.castillo@state.or.us.

Sincerely,

Susan Castillo

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Which Students Should Take Extended Assessments?

Extended assessments are available for a small number of students with disabilities, specifically those with the most significant and complex disabilities. The decision that a student will take one or more extended assessments is made by the student's individual education program (IEP) team and is specified on the IEP document. Most students with IEPs will take Oregon's general benchmark (grade level) assessments.

There are four extended assessments: Extended Career and Life Role Assessment System (CLRAS), Extended Reading, Extended Writing, and Extended Mathematics. These are provided as alternate state assessments for students receiving special education who are unable to take the

general assessments even with available options. Extended assessments are provided over the Internet, including materials download, data entry, and individual student reports. Taking extended assessments meets the state test participation requirement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Districts may use the online extended assessments as alternates for districtwide assessments in grades 4, 6, 7, and/or 9.

To learn more about extended assessments, visit the extended assessment website at www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/extasmts/ or contact [Pat Almond](mailto:Pat.Almond@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2267.

For more information about IEPs and special education visit www.ode.state.or.us/sped/.

Commodity Food Orders Due in December

School districts who participate in the National School Lunch Program may place their orders for the January delivery of commodities as follows:

- Sponsors in the first order cycle may place their commodity order from Dec. 8 at 8 a.m. until Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. Surplus items will be available to allocate and add to your order from Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. until Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. Orders placed after 1 p.m. on Dec. 11 will not be processed. The distribution period for this order is Jan. 5-16.
- Sponsors in the second order cycle may place their commodity order from Dec. 15 at 8 a.m. until Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. Surplus items will be available to allocate and add to your order from Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. until Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. Orders placed after 1 p.m. on Dec. 18 will not be processed. The distribution period for this order is Jan. 20-30.

Commodity ordering information can be found at www.ode.state.or.us/nutrition/cfdp/index.htm

To determine your order cycle click on "Ordering Cycles by Counties"; for ordering instructions click on "Ordering Procedures."

For more information, contact [Beverly Hassell](mailto:Beverly.Hassell@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2622.

TESA Announces New Team Member

The Office of Assessment and Evaluation is pleased to welcome Amy Snook as the new TESA support person at the Department of Education. Amy's background includes over three years of helpdesk experience. Please call Amy with any TESA questions you may have. If she does not know the answer, she knows how to find the answer. You may also call just to welcome her.

Contact [Amy Snook](mailto:Amy.Snook@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2250.

Closing the Achievement Gap Conference

The Oregon Department of Education will host its first Closing the Achievement Gap Conference Feb. 28 at Portland State University. This one-day conference will highlight methods, techniques, and practices that are currently being used by Oregon's educators to close the achievement gap by increasing the achievement of all students. Workshops will focus on presenting useful ideas and techniques while also describing successful programs being used to close the gap in Oregon.

The focus of the conference is instruction, parent and community involvement, curriculum, training and staff development, and leadership and accountability.

Contact [Ralph Wisner](mailto:Ralph.Wisner@ode.state.or.us) or [Andrew Choy](mailto:Andrew.Choy@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2357.

2004 TESA Science, Social Sciences Half-Study Opportunities

The Oregon Department of Education is providing two half-study opportunities:

- Science for Benchmark 2 and 3 students. This is the only opportunity for Benchmark 2 and 3 students to participate in science on-line testing this year.
- Social sciences for Benchmark 2, 3, and CIM students. This is the only opportunity for Benchmark 2, 3, and CIM students to participate in social sciences on-line testing this year.

To participate in the spring TESA testing opportunity for science or for social sciences, complete the half-study participation registration at <https://district.ode.state.or.us/events/>.

For more information, contact [Leslie Phillips](mailto:Leslie.Phillips@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2317.

Award-Winning Latino Youth Videos Available Free of Charge

What is it like to be young and Latino in Oregon today? According to top educators and leaders, one of the best ways to find out is by watching *Nuestra Vision, Nuestro Futuro*, a new video series being distributed free of charge to schools, libraries, and community groups by the Portland Art Museum Northwest Film Center. The two 30-minute compilations lend themselves to classroom use, public presentations, and discussion groups and are appropriate for English and Spanish-speaking general audiences of all ages.

The series was created through the Oregon Latino Youth Video Project, a three-year statewide media arts education initiative of the Northwest Film Center and Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement. Through the project 49 Latino youth, ages 14 to 19, from Bend, Ontario, Gresham and Portland worked with Northwest Film Center faculty to document their lives and communities and to share their hopes and aspirations on video.

"We are showing the positive things our people are doing in the community, how we have impacted the community," explains Adam Martinez, of Ontario, one of the students who worked on the project.

"I have no doubt that this project has had a profound impact on these students. We see them discover more about themselves, celebrate and embrace the Latino contributions to this country, and acknowledge that education is clearly the gateway to opportunity," said Oregon's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo.

The Northwest Film Center, which operates the Young Filmmakers Program and School of Film out of its facility in Portland, is launching a campaign to encourage schools and

community groups to use the videos. The videos can be ordered online at www.nwfilm.org. They are free of charge. For more information, contact [CJ Glazer](mailto:CJ.Glazer@nwfilm.org), 503-221-1156 ext. 4515.

"The videos are valuable material for use in diversity trainings, said Lidia Krivoy, LPC, Beaverton School District ESL/Bilingual Social Worker. "They address issues faced by Latino youth; these videos are well-suited to stimulate group discussions and gain understanding of cultural differences."

The Oregon Latino Youth Video Project, *Nuestra Vision, Nuestro Futuro*, (Our Vision, Our Future) is a project of the Northwest Film Center and Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement and was produced with support from the Oregon Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Henry Lea Hillman, Jr. Foundation, Inc. and Regional Arts & Culture Council.

Bullying Policies Due

We want to remind you that ORS 339.351 through 339.364 requires all Oregon school districts to adopt policies on harassment, intimidation, and bullying by Jan. 1, 2004, and to submit copies of these policies to John Lensen at the Oregon Department of Education. We have been receiving copies of these policies over the past several weeks and would like to have all district policies on file by Feb. 1.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact [John Lensen](mailto:John.Lensen@ode.k12.or.us) at 503-378-3600 ext. 2709.

Oregon Scores on National Assessment of Educational Progress Released

In 2003, over 14,000 schools across the country, including 237 schools in Oregon, participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics assessments between January and March. The U.S. Department of Education released scores to the nation on Nov. 13.

Click on these links to see Oregon results in one-page snapshot reports:

Mathematics

Grade 4: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/stt2003/2004457OR4.pdf>

Grade 8: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/stt2003/2004457OR8.pdf>

Reading

Grade 4: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/stt2003/2004456OR4.pdf>

Grade 8: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/stt2003/2004456OR8.pdf>

NAEP provides states with average scale scores and percentages of students at three achievement levels that let us compare how well students perform from year to year, state to state, region to region, and across the nation. To see how Oregon students compare to other states, go to <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>, click on "State Profiles" at the top of the page, select Oregon on the map, then click on "Cross-State Comparison Maps: Scale Scores" and choose the grade, subject, and year you are interested in seeing. If you would like help using the NAEP Data Tool, call Susan Huggins, 503-378-3600 ext. 2266.

For information about NAEP and Oregon reports or to subscribe to the *Oregon NAEP* e-newsletter, send an e-mail request to [Susan Huggins](mailto:Susan.Huggins@ode.k12.or.us).

E-Learning Distance Education Website

Fifteen years ago, distance education meant nothing more than a 10-week correspondence course done tediously by mail. Now distance education is instantaneous, using satellites, the Internet, and e-mail. E-learning distance education uses telecommunications to connect schools across Oregon through online classes, virtual field trips, and videoconferencing. As students and teachers throughout Oregon are straining to meet rigorous standards, they are in need of educational resources to help them. The new e-learning distance education website was launched by the Oregon Department of Education on Oct. 6 to allow schools equal access to these resources regardless of their location.

E-learning tears down the barriers of distance and time that separate our schools throughout Oregon. It improves communication between students and educators from across the state in the form of video-based classes, virtual field trips, live streaming events, and online schools and classes. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo, believes that e-learning distance education is a powerful educational tool. On the new website, teachers can borrow ideas from what other schools are doing with videoconferencing and virtual field trips. Students and parents can search for online classes available in their area. These classes are ideal for those who face medical conditions that restrict them to their homes. Online classes are also valuable for smaller schools that are unable to offer the same selection of classes as other schools. It allows students the chance to take classes that never would have been possible without e-Learning—courses such as personal finance, family living, marine science, astronomy, Latin, digital imaging, web design, and American Sign Language.

Teachers and administrators can visit the Professional Development Series page to find workshops, information, and resources especially for them. This

site is designed to help educators meet the needs of all students by providing information on achieving, measuring, and comparing test scores and meeting federal guidelines. There is also a section featuring information on the upcoming 2004 e-Learning Distance Education Summit that will discuss the need for a statewide partnership in using distance education.

For students like Brianne Bostian, a senior at Wheeler High School in Fossil, distance education has been a helpful tool in receiving a well-rounded education. Brianne decided to take a first responder class online because it wasn't offered any other way at her school. "I was skeptical about it at first, but after a while I liked it because it was convenient to be able to do my work either at home or at school." Her experience taking an online class was rewarding and said

she would recommend them to others. She expressed a desire to take future online classes, and is in fact going to take two next semester, medical terminology and anatomy and physiology. Limited research indicates that students perform no better or worse than normal when learning online. This seems to suggest that the online courses are every bit as challenging as regular classes.

Distance education through e-Learning is already a valuable asset to public education. The amazing opportunities afforded to us by telecommunications are astounding. The new website contains the information teachers, administrators, parents, and students need to incorporate e-Learning into their curriculum, class, and home. The new E-Learning Distance Education website can be found at www.ode.state.or.us/elearning/.

School and District Report Cards Set for Release January 29

The school and district report cards will be issued on Thursday, Jan. 29. Schools and districts will have an opportunity to review their report cards for errors prior to the public release. The preview window begins on Thursday, Jan. 22 and ends on Monday, Jan. 26. Data that has been previously validated by the district will not be changed. (Districts have a designated person who has access to the password-protected website, and directions will be on that site.)

Sample district, elementary, middle, and high school report cards are now available on the Department's website at <http://reportcard.ode.state.or.us/whatnew.htm>. The school and district report cards both will contain the AYP data and rating which is a change from last year. This is a result of the NCLB

requirements. The Department and the Oregon School Boards Association are developing another toolkit for your communication needs. This should be posted by mid-December on both the Department of Education website and the Oregon School Boards Association website.

A complete list of changes for all the cards is available on the Department's website listed above. There are two minor changes to the rating formula and several changes in the information displayed on the cards. For more details, please check the Policy Manual and the Technical Manual which are posted on the Department's website.

Contact [Nanci Schneider](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2353.

e-Learning Distance Education Summit Scheduled for January

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Susan Castillo, invites education stakeholders from around Oregon to take part in an all-day e-Learning Distance Education Summit on Jan. 26. On that day, K-12, community college, and university administrators and teachers, along with community cultural and business partners, will convene at the Oregon Museum for Science and Industry (OMSI).

The Summit is hosted by the Oregon Department of Education and sponsored by Intel, Microsoft, OMSI, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and Qwest.

Purpose of the Summit

Superintendent Castillo called together representatives of all the stakeholder groups to help plan and implement the Jan. 26 summit. This collective group formulated the following purpose for the summit:

To improve understanding of the status and the potential of e-Learning distance education in Oregon for all stakeholders in order to:

Create a common vision and a framework for a successful distance education system, accessible and beneficial for all Oregon learners.

The Summit (a brief summary)

Superintendent Castillo will open the Jan. 26 Summit. The morning will then feature a showcase of e-Learning distance education opportunities in Oregon, national-level speakers on the topic, and a presentation by a student panel, representative of students from around the state. During lunch, technology education professionals from Washington, D.C., will talk about the future of distance education and the technology and systems that will support it. The afternoon will hold opportunities for participants to engage

in workgroups, helping to lay the groundwork for a functioning K-20 system for all Oregon students, and the institutions that serve them.

Outcomes

The summit will result in a working group that will set clear recommendations for a K-20 e-Learning distance education system for the state of Oregon, resulting in a blueprint for the future of distance education. The charge of the resulting Department-sponsored workgroup includes the development of clear steps to overcome roadblocks that currently stand in the way of successful implementation:

- Governance
- Funding
- Information outreach
- Access
- Accountability
- Content development
- Technology infrastructure and equipment

Who Should Attend?

The summit is open to those educators, business partners, community partners, and government representatives involved in the implementation and access of e-Learning distance education programs for Oregon.

Registration and Contacts

To register, download and complete the registration form by accessing the Department's e-Learning website, www.ode.state.or.us/elearning/2004summit.aspx. There is a \$15 registration fee.

Videoconference participation and video streaming viewing options will be also be available for portions of the conference.

For more information or questions about the summit, contact [Camille Cole](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 4433, or [Carla Wade](#), 593-378-3600 ext. 2283.

Writing Assessments in Spanish to Count for AYP

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) allows states to offer some students the opportunity to be tested in their native language as tests are available. This is an option for students who have not yet achieved proficiency in English and have been educated in the United States for three or fewer consecutive years. In Oregon, students have had the option of responding in Spanish to a Spanish-translated version of the Writing Performance Assessment prompts for a number of years. The test has previously counted as a modified test.

In 2003-04, students who meet the criteria specified in NCLB Section 1111(b)(3)(C)(ix-x), may respond to the Spanish-translated writing prompt in Spanish and have that score count in school and district AYP reports.

Note that students will continue to be required to demonstrate writing proficiency in English to earn the CIM in the English content area. More information will be issued from this office in the form of a numbered memo in early December.

Contact [Elaine Hultengren](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2345.

Interested In A Copy of the Latest Statutes?

The Department of Education wants to know: Are you interested in purchasing copies. In the past we have provided a copy to ESDs to distribute to school district administrators. Due to budget constraints we can no longer continue to do this at our expense. However, we are willing to print the statutes if there is enough interest. Cost would be \$6-9, just enough to cover our expenses.

Please contact [Barbara Slimak](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 4498 if you are interested. Please indicate the number of copies.

Oregon's Literacy Initiative Videoconferences Offered

Oregon's Literacy Initiative will be highlighted in the P16 Resources for Student Success videoconferences scheduled for Jan. 20 and 21. Highlights include:

- The vision for literacy is learning to read, reading to learn, and learning to learn
- Existing policies, programs, and activities fit together in a coherent literacy initiative

- A plan for upcoming professional development for teachers and for administrators

You can take part in the videoconference at your local ESD or on the Internet (Jan. 21 only):

- On Jan. 21- Clackamas ESD, Harney ESD, Lane ESD, Malheur ESD, North Central ESD, Northwest Regional ESD in Hillsboro, Region 9 ESD in The

Dalles, Region 18 ESD in Enterprise, Southern Oregon ESD, Umatilla-Morrow ESD, and Union-Baker ESD.

- Jan. 21-Douglas ESD; High Desert ESD; Lake ESD; Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD; Multnomah ESD; Northwest Regional ESD at the Astoria, Columbia and Tillamook Service Centers; and South Coast ESD; or on the Internet (complete instructions will be available by Jan. 5 at www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/video/).

In addition to the videoconferences, background information, handouts, power point slides, and archived video will become available on the website, www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/video/, between mid-January and mid-February.

Register online at www.ode.state.or.us/events/ for the videoconference hosted at the ESD nearest you.

Upcoming P16 Resources for Student Success Distance Learning events:

- Mar. 16 and 17: Closing the Achievement Gap
- May 18 and 19: Planning for the 2004-05 School Year

Contact [Kathleen Vanderwall](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2288.

Numbered Memoranda Overview

Numbered memos sent out since the November *Pipeline* are listed below.

DATE	MEMO No.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Dec. 8	018-2003-04	Oregon American Indian/Alaskan Native Education State Plan
Dec. 8	017-2003-04	2003-04 Assurance Form
Dec. 8	016-2003-04	Spanish Responses to the Writing Assessment at Benchmarks 2 (grade 5), 3 (grade 8) and CIM (grade 10)
Dec. 1	015-2003-04	2002-03 School and District Report Cards
Nov. 14	014-2003-04	Postponement of 2004-06 Consolidated District Improvement Plan (CDIP) Submission Date
Nov. 10	013-2003-04	Review of Annual Financial Reports
Nov. 10	012-2003-04	State Board Adopts Writing Assessment Shift to Grades 4, 7
Nov. 4	011-2003-04	State Adopted Instructional Materials for Second Languages (World Languages)
Nov. 4	010-2003-04	Oregon Health Education Content Standards

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please contact [Gene J. Evans](#), communications director, at 503-378-3600 ext. 2237.