

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S *Pipeline*

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*Happy Birthday,
Oregon!*



From My Desk to Yours

A Message from Stan Bunn
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

I received some information from the Legislature yesterday that has me concerned. The Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means just released their budget numbers, and several special efforts we proposed for education are on the "cut" list.

Specifically, the Co-Chairs propose cutting \$5 million for Local Option Equalization; \$2.7 million for Dropout Prevention and Recovery; \$1.5 million for Teacher Mentoring; and \$3.5 million for assistance to Low-Performing Schools. These programs were in the Governor's budget in addition to the state school fund monies. They impact all of us.

About 10,000 Oregon students drop out of our schools every year. This decision, made at age 15 or 16 or 17, seriously affects a student's future options. Students who drop out of school comprise at least 79% of the Oregon adult prison population; are four times as likely to be covered by the Oregon Health Plan; are more than twice as likely to be unemployed; and are earning 30% less in wages. Oregon cannot afford to lose the valuable human resource these young people represent. Without a comprehensive, statewide, focused strategy, improving our dropout numbers is nearly impossible.

Another targeted cut is the Teacher Mentorship program. In the next decade, about 18,000 new teachers will be hired in Oregon. Based on standard attrition rates, between 5,400 and 9,000 of these teachers will quit within the first five years. With an effective Teacher Mentoring program in place, California has reduced the number of new teachers leaving the profession from 37% to 9%.

We have made a commitment to provide assistance to schools rated as "low" or "unacceptable" on our reports cards. Eliminating the funding for assistance to these schools will undermine the focus on continuous improvement and handicap their efforts to make important changes.

Finally, Ballot Measure 1, passed by voters this November, requires the equalization of local option levies, so the impact of this \$5 million cut, as proposed in the Co-Chairs' budget, is not clear. I believe it is important to express support for the Governor's budget in this area also.

You've heard me say before that nothing is as effective as local school staff talking directly to their legislators. I urge you to keep those communications lines open. Your simple message to legislators to support the Governor's budget on these issues is critical. If you need a quick reference for your state senators and representatives, a list has been set up on our web site where you can locate legislators and their local school districts: www.ode.state.or.us/supportservices/listoflegislators.asp

As always, please contact me or any Department employee if we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Stan Bunn

Oregon Department of Education

CAM Advisory Team

A CAM Implementation Advisory Team, with representatives from various parts of Oregon including educators, business and community representatives, and educational partners such as ESDs, COSA, OEA, and Oregon PTA, will meet for the first time on Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Chemeketa Community College (Bldg. 50, Room 155).



The Implementation Team's charge is to:

- Help define the Department's role with CAM implementation
- Establish and define implementation partnerships with other agencies such as ESDs, OSBA, COSA, OEA, and Oregon PTA
- Identify and/or recommend creation of statewide roll-out strategies that support local implementation
- Identify and/or recommend creation of models and tools for CAM school support systems

For more information about the Advisory Team and its ongoing work, contact **Jim Schoelkopf** at 503-378-3600 ext. 2227. Information will also be available on the Department's website at www.ode.state.or.us.

CAM Communication Network

Department CAM communications representatives have contacted all high school principals and superintendents to discuss the new communication effort and identify a local CAM contact for each organization. The Department is finalizing the database and local CAM representatives can expect the first CAM communication update next week.

Summer Migrant Funds

Funding is available for summer programs for migrant students, pre-K-12. These non-competitive grants fund enrichment and remedial instruction and food services. Contact **Merced Flores**, 503-378-3600 ext. 2701 .

Legislative Highlights

As the 71st Legislative Assembly moves from early activities into hearings and action on various bills, it will be difficult to provide up-to-date information in a monthly newsletter format.

Instead, this column will identify bills that have broad implications and are currently "in the hopper."

Of course, you'll want to use existing sources, such as the COSA and OSBA websites and newsletters, for information. In addition, you may find this link to the weekly schedules and agendas for the House and Senate committee meetings useful: www.leg.state.or.us/01reg/pubs/commsch.html

Three bills in particular have been on the House Committee agenda this week, with Department staff providing testimony.

HB 2295 Establishes Quality Education Commission; Implements Measure 1—Kate Dickson and Nancy Heiligman testified in favor

Back to School Week

The second Oregon Back to School Week will be held April 30-May 4. Last year's event, designed to bring state and local policymakers, business people, service clubs, and community members into local schools, was very successful. Over 400 schools in 100 communities participated.

Schools reported positive responses from students, educators, and their visitors. Local newspapers and radio stations covered the events in their communities and every TV station in Portland, Bend, Eugene, and Medford ran stories during the week.

The event is sponsored by the Statewide Organization for Schools (SOS), a nonprofit organization. SOS provides information to schools and districts to assist them in making the week enjoyable and educational. Packets have been sent to principals, superintendents and school public relations contacts. SOS can be contacted at sos@sosoregon.org or at 503-228-3465.

HB 2298 Creates School Improvement Fund—Kate Dickson testified in favor

HB 2483 Directs school district to allow student who attends private school access to school activities that are outside of regular school program—Joanne Flint is working with this bill. A number of discussions and some amendments are in the works, so this bill will likely undergo some changes.

In addition, both Supt. Stan Bunn and former Superintendent, now State Senator Verne Duncan, testified at the Senate Education Committee against SB1 which would make the Governor the State Superintendent of Public Instruction with the Department managed by an appointed deputy.

Finally, issues relating to the state school fund and the formula for distributing those funds are on the legislative agenda again. Bills have been introduced to adjust the formula for small and rural schools, to increase the special education cap from 11% to 13%, and to adjust for rapid enrollment growth and decline.

Reading Summit

The Third Annual Oregon Reading Summit will be held on April 13 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The summit offers Oregon educators an opportunity to interact with nationally and internationally recognized reading researchers.

Registration for the Oregon Reading Summit 2001 will be open Feb. 1-Mar. 19 on the Department's website www.ode.state.or.us/events/. Due to space restrictions, the summit will be limited to 950. To register you must complete the information requested and provide an individual e-mail address. Upon successful completion of the summit registration, registrants will receive an e-mail confirming registration including a list of the workshops for which the participant has been successfully registered. No other registration confirmation will be mailed.

Contact **Carmen West**, 503-378-3600 ext. 2270.



Report Cards

Work on the School and District Report Cards is currently aimed at short-term needs and long-range planning and improvement.

In the short term, staff is responding to questions, clarifications, and continuing interest in the recently released 2001 report cards. Much of the information requested is available through the Department's website. The Report Card Manual serves as a reference for common questions and an explanation of the rating formula. This information is available at www.reportcard.ode.state.or.us/.

A detail sheet shows how the rating in each category was determined. This information can be accessed by contacting your district's security administrator who has the password.

In long-range planning, efforts focus on making the report card a better tool for

school improvement. It is a work in progress that provides only a piece of the larger picture when looking at the important characteristics of schools.

A Feb. 22 quarterly meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee will review input received from educators and others. Issues for next year's report cards will be identified. The highlights of the Policy Advisory Committee meetings will be available on the Department's website.

Questions and requests for information may be directed to the report card mailbox, where they will be routed to the appropriate person for a response. The e-mail address is report.card@state.or.us.

Nanci Schneider will continue to lead efforts with the report cards and to facilitate the Policy Advisory Committee. She can be reached at 503-378-3600 ext. 2353.

Spring Assessment Window

Mathematics, reading/literature, and science tests for grade 10 and retests for grades 11 and 12 will occur from Mar. 28-April 21. Mathematics problem solving and writing tests will be April 28-May 12.

Every grade 10 student needs to be tested during one of the testing windows sometime during the school year. Re-tests (for grades 11 and 12) are not mandatory, but districts should have some tests available for those students who wish to re-test.

Students in grades 3, 5, and 8 will take mathematics and reading/literature tests from March 28-April 21. Eighth graders will also take a test in science. Students in grade 5 will be tested in science next fall.

More specific schedule information can be found at www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/2001testrev.htm.

For the March/April Assessment windows, ordering of test materials will take place on-line, Feb. 1-16. Please order test quantities through your district test coordinator. District test coordinators have access to the Department's password protected on-line ordering form.

Charter School Grants

Applications for the second round of the Oregon Public Charter School Incentive Grant are due on Feb. 23. The awards will be announced at the March State Board meeting. For more information on charter school grant applications go to www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/charterschools/. Contact **Joni Gilles** at 503-378-3600 ext. 2276.

Test Item Writing Week

Teachers are being recruited for the annual summer Test Item Writing Workshop, to be held July 16-20 at Westview High School in Beaverton.

In addition to developing actual test items for future statewide assessments, teachers will gain first-hand knowledge about aspects of Oregon's statewide assessment program. Participants will earn professional development units.

Elementary, middle, and high school teachers are needed with expertise in mathematics, reading/literature, science, and social sciences. Teachers with specialities in English as a Second Language, special education, and Title I are also needed.

Applications will be available on the Department's event website at www.ode.state.or.us/events/.

Content Standards Review

A series of meetings are going on around the state to review the proposed changes to the Science and Social Science Content Standards. The meetings include a late afternoon session, targeted mainly toward educators, and an evening session, focusing on parents and community members.

Meetings have been held in Medford, Portland, and Bend. Upcoming cities and dates include Vale, Feb. 6; Hillsboro, Feb. 21; Pendleton, Feb. 22; and Eugene, Feb. 28. Specific times and locations for the meetings will be found on the Department's website at www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/socialsciences/standards/.

Comments on the proposals can also be sent via e-mail, fax or letter using the information provided on the website.

Contacts are **Andrea Morgan**, 503-378-3600 ext. 2289, and **Kathleen Vanderwall**, 503-378-3600 ext. 2288.

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please contact **Barbara Wolfe**, communications team, at 503-378-3600 ext. 2219.