

# P. THE SUPERINTENDENT'S Pipefine

Oregon Department of Education

MARCH 2006



## From the desk of Susan Castillo

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

For years, many education experts thought the achievement gap was unbridgeable. The conventional wisdom held that struggling children were growing up weighed down by so many social woes—poverty, discrimination, broken homes, and gangs—that the challenge was too much for the system.

But all of that is changing. In the four years since I became Oregon's schools chief, I have seen attitudes shift dramatically, and I have seen schools and students transformed. That is why I started Oregon's Closing the Achievement Gap conference, which draws educators from all over our state to discuss and share effective and innovative strategies for raising student achievement. The conference climaxes with a banquet honoring schools across the state that are showing progress in closing the gap.

So what is the magic formula for success? Well, it isn't really magic and it isn't even a secret. First, you have got to have numbers. Kids today get tested a lot, so we collect reams of data about how they are performing in various areas, down to individual students. The spreadsheet is a mighty powerful teaching tool. By analyzing patterns in achievement, we can hone in on priorities and shift resources when and where they are most needed. Most importantly, we can hold ourselves accountable to ensure student success. The numbers do not lie. You know if you are doing a good job or you need to try something new.

Then, each school needs to develop the education plan that best fits its students and its situation. There is no miracle curriculum that works for everybody. There are plenty of strong, research-based teaching programs out there. We must keep an open mind to strategies that are proven effective, whatever they may be, and have the courage to implement them.

To make changes happen and to make them stick, we need dynamic leadership, starting with superintendents and continuing with principals, teachers, volunteers—everyone working together as a team. We need leaders with vision, strength, and determination. Leaders who can make the tough calls and hold everyone—and themselves—accountable for results.

Finally, we have got to believe. Every child has within them the potential to be an amazing learner. We must hold high expectations for all. We must believe that all children can succeed in school.

That is why the motto of Oregon's Closing the Achievement Gap conference is this: "Every Day, Every Student, a Success." Together, we can make sure that it is the guiding force driving all of us to do the best job for all students.

Sincerely,

Susan Castillo

## IN THIS ISSUE

ELPA Logistics for April 4

Public School Enrollment  
Jumps in SY 05-06

Automated External  
Defibrillators

Closing the Achievement  
Gap Conference

Strategies for Student  
Success Summer Institute Set

Oregon Charter School  
Sponsor Conference

State Problem-gambling  
Program Taps Student  
Creativity

Student Emotional and  
Behavior Connections

Native American Education  
in the 21st Century

Expanded Options (SB 300)  
OAR Hearing Set

Request for Standards  
Newspaper Articles

TESA Required SY 06-07

Stipends for Schools—Family  
Involvement

## ELPA Logistics for April 4 Launch

Please click on the link ([www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=256](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=256)) to view an accounting of the number of headsets that each district qualifies to receive for ELPA testing based on 2004-05 LEP counts. The districts that participated in the fall and winter field tests have already received some headsets, so the last column "To be shipped" indicates the additional number of headsets that will be sent to the district test coordinator (DTC) to disperse to schools for the April assessment window—April 4-June 9. If that column contains a "0," then the district has already received the number of headsets that are allotted to that district based on the one headset per six ELL students ratio.

**District personnel should test every headset on the computer that will be used for student testing.** If districts that participated in the field tests

have headsets that are not working, the DTC should call 541-338-9090 for return and replacement instructions.

**Daily Passwords: Roles and Responsibilities—DTC and teachers/proctors** Teachers will need to obtain the ELPA daily password for student access to the online assessment.

### The process for receiving ELPA passwords:

The first time the DTC signs in to the ELPA site, [www.oregonelp.net](http://www.oregonelp.net), she/he will need to register. The DTC will need to complete an "Assurance of Test Security" form and accept the terms of the agreement before proceeding. The DTC will then get an e-mail with the district login, including a user name and password.

After receiving the district login, the DTC will have access to a list of pass codes for each school in the district.

It will be the responsibility of the DTC to get the pass codes to teachers and staff who need access to the assessment.

When logging in the teacher will use the district e-mail address and the school pass code. If it is the first time the teacher is entering this information, the teacher will be asked to complete an "Assurance of Test Security" form and to accept the terms of the agreement before proceeding. Once past this, teachers will have access to the daily password that students will use to login and take the test. Go to the ELPA support and login site at [www.oregonelp.net](http://www.oregonelp.net).

This system will be ready to test on Mar. 10.

For more information, contact [Susan Huggins](#).

## State Public School Enrollment Jumps in 2005-06 School Year

The total number of Oregon elementary and secondary students enrolled in public schools has increased sharply since last year. According to Oct. 1, 2005 counts reported by school districts, Oregon has 559,228 public school students—an increase of 6,889 since last year (1.2%). State population forecasts had predicted an increase of less than one percent.

"The surprising increase in the number of public school students this year will continue to put pressure on Oregon schools and districts," said State Superintendent Susan Castillo. "We already face some of the largest class sizes in the country, and the combination of increased enrollment and decreased school funding makes it even harder for classroom teachers to ensure that every student is successful."

"In addition, Hispanic student enrollment continues to increase," Castillo said. "Today, there are 84,246

Hispanic students in the state, and many of these students need more resources and more specialized instruction."

"Given the increase in general student population and the increase in English language learners, combined with the deep cuts in recent years, it is clear that Oregon schools must have more resources," Castillo said. "Since 2002, we have been doing more with less, and we have slipped below the national average in per-pupil spending. We urgently need to reinvest in our schools."

Here are the 2005-06 enrollment figures for the state's ten largest districts and the percentage change from 2004-05:

1. Portland 46,988 (-1.4%)
2. Salem-Keizer 38,908 (+1.9%)
3. Beaverton 36,664 (+1.6%)
4. Hillsboro 19,715 (+1.9%)
5. Eugene 18,439 (+0.3%)

6. North Clackamas 16,987 (+2.7%)
7. Bend-LaPine 14,685 (+2.7%)
8. Medford 12,538 (-1.4%)
9. Tigard-Tualatin 12,351 (+1.3%)
10. Gresham-Barlow 12,027 (-0.6%)

## Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Informational Webpage Now Online

House Bill 3482 has authorized the Oregon Department of Education to seek sources of funding to support a state grants program enabling districts to implement AED programs in their schools. School administrators can find grant availability updates and other potential funding sources, as well as information on automated external defibrillators in general. The page's address is [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=352](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=352).

## Two Events to Help Make *Every Student, Every Day—A Success*

The 2006 Closing the Achievement Gap Conference and Banquet will be held April 28-29 (Friday and ½ day Saturday) at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Conference participants will choose from an extensive list of workshops focusing on one or more of the following topical areas:

- Family and Community Involvement
- Data-Informed Planning

- Using Technology to Bridge the Achievement Gap
- Techniques for Teaching Diverse Students
- Managing Student Transitions: Preschool through Post-Secondary
- Leadership

This is a first-class training opportunity at a very affordable price. Get all the information you need for online application, how to apply to be a presenter or hold a poster session,

and much more at: [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187).

The Celebrating Student Success Awards Banquet will be held after the conference on April 28 from 6-8 p.m. The banquet will honor and reward 15 schools for their successes in closing the achievement gap. Dine with educators, business and civic leaders, and reward leaders within the K-12 school system who are succeeding in meeting the educational needs of all their students. Cost is \$40 for individual, \$400 for table of ten.

For additional information and online registration please visit [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187).

For more information contact [Mark Barrall](mailto:Mark.Barrall@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2252.

## 2006 Strategies for Student Success Summer Institute Set for Aug. 7-9

Registration is now open for your middle and high school and/or district teams to enroll in the 2006 Superintendent's Strategies for Student Success Summer Institute to be held in Portland, Aug. 7-9.

The theme for the institute is *Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships—Building a Climate for Student Success*. Download the registration, funding information, and updated topic information from the 2006 Summer Institute webpage at [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=262](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=262).

Topics for your school/district improvement teams include:

- Content-Area Comprehension/ Vocabulary Strategies for All Students
- Leadership for Change
- Adolescent Literacy—A National Perspective
- Standards-based Instruction—Where It Fits In
- Assessment—Integrating with Instruction and Formative Assessments in the Secondary School
- Improving Achievement for All Your School Sub-groups
- Differentiating Instruction for the English Language Learner

- Instructional Coaching from the Center for Research on Learning
- The National Writing Project and Writing in the Secondary Classroom
- Literacy and the Social Sciences
- Literacy in Math and Science
- Motivation—Getting Students Going!

Register your team now. Team size should be 5-9 members and must consist of administrators, content-area teachers, and specialists. Team-planning time and appointments with presenters will be featured throughout the institute.

Per-person registration fee is \$150 (fee includes four professional development days—Aug. 7-9 and Feb. 22, 2007). See the Summer Institute webpage for funding sources for registration fees. Funding support in the form of reimbursement/planning grants up to \$3000 will be available for every team of 5-9 members that attends the Summer Institute and submits the brief grant application following the institute in August.

For registration, contact [Teresa Schneiderman](mailto:Teresa.Schneiderman@ode.state.or.us). For program information, contact [Julie Anderson](mailto:Julie.Anderson@ode.state.or.us).

## Oregon Charter School Sponsor Conference

Oregon's charter school legislation designates school districts as sponsors for charter schools. As sponsors, or authorizers, of charter schools, local districts have certain responsibilities for support and oversight.

This conference presents information and practical application of Oregon's charter school law and district opportunities and responsibilities. Attendance is targeted to district superintendents and school board members of any school district with a charter or not.

March 31, 2006  
8:30 a.m.— 4 p.m.  
Colwood National Golf Club  
7313 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97218

Registration (\$25) is necessary as space is limited. Register by March 17 by contacting [Donna Newbeck](mailto:Donna.Newbeck@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2293.

## State Problem-gambling Program Taps Student Creativity

Middle-school teachers are being encouraged to tell their students about a poster search being conducted in March by the Lottery-financed problem-gambling services program in the Oregon Department of Human Services.

Jeff Marotta, who manages the program, says this activity is intended to raise student awareness of gambling's risks and that the winning poster will be used to increase public awareness about a problem that affects one in 45 Oregonians.

"Students see and experience the effects of problem gambling first-hand," Marotta says, "either with family members, friends, or even their own gambling, as evidenced by the thought-provoking posters we have received in previous years."

## Grantsmanship Training Scheduled

Lane Education Service District and the University of Oregon invite you to participate in The Grantsmanship Training Program to be held at Lane ESD in Eugene. This five-day workshop will be held May 1-5.

The Grantsmanship Training Program is an intensive, "hands-on" workshop covering all aspects of researching grants, writing grant proposals, and negotiating with funding sources. It is designed for both novice and advanced grantseekers. During the workshop you will learn the Center's proposal writing format. You will team up with classmates to prepare and write a proposal; you will also investigate funding sources for your organization.

TGCI Membership is included with TGCI's Grantsmanship Training Program. Upon completion of the workshop, graduates will receive a one-year TGCI Membership, which includes proposal review and an

Posters should be designed to reach friends and/or family; be prepared on letter-sized or 11-inch by 17-inch paper; and include the student's name, grade, school, and city on the back.

Entries must be submitted by Mar. 31 to local prevention coordinators listed at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling/opgaw-contacts.pdf>. For areas not included on that list, send entries to Greta Coe, Human Services Building, 500 Summer St. NE, E86, Salem, OR 97301.

The student submitting the winning poster will receive a \$100 gift card, as will the classroom that submits the most poster entries. DHS and its partners will judge the entries. Last year's poster winner was Hollis Gehrett of Eugene, an eighth-grader at Monroe Middle School.

array of benefits and services. You will also be enrolled in the Alumni Forum, an on-line discussion group for the exclusive use of TGCI alumni, trainers and staff.

Your hosts for this program are Lane ESD and the University of Oregon Continuing Education department, which serve the educational needs of all Oregon residents by providing the highest quality instructors from both the academic and business worlds.

Tuition for this top-quality training program is \$825. To maximize personal attention, registration is limited to 30.

For more information, contact Nannette Myers, Lane ESD on-site coordinator at 541-461-8366, or David Bernstein, University of Oregon's lead coordinator at 541-346-1233. To register, call The Grantsmanship Center directly at 800-421-9512, or visit the website at [www.tgci.com](http://www.tgci.com).

## Student Emotional and Behavioral Connections

The Oregon Department of Education's Office of Student Learning and Partnerships is collaborating with the Oregon Children's Mental Health Initiative (Department of Human Services and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators to present *Student Emotional and Behavioral Health Connections*, a one day event on Mar. 10 at the Chemeketa Community College's Viticulture Center in West Salem.

The main purpose of this event is to assist educators and mental health personnel to work together to form stronger connections and understandings. Educators and mental health personnel will engage in discussions of current activities and create strategic plans to build on the knowledge and skills gained on Mar. 10. Presentation topics include: intersections between positive behavior support (PBS) and mental health support, systems of care in the Children's Mental Health Initiative, and including parents in systems of care.

The event is full, but materials are available online at the Positive Behavior Support website at [www.ode.state.or.us/initiatives/idea/pbs.aspx](http://www.ode.state.or.us/initiatives/idea/pbs.aspx).

For further questions, contact [Jennifer Doolittle](mailto:Jennifer.Doolittle@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2636.

## Recovery From Discovery: Native American Education in the 21st Century

The 31st annual Oregon Indian Education Association Conference will be held April 6-7 at Portland State University.

The purpose of the conference is to:

- Examine American Indian/Alaskan Native educational concerns;
- Exchange ideas and develop proactive strategies; and
- Improve educational achievement of American Indian/Alaskan Native students.

Department of Education staff will present workshops addressing:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native student achievement;
- American Indian/Alaskan Native curriculum;
- Native language instruction;
- Proficiency credits; and
- American Indian/Alaskan Native data collection.

This conference is open to all K-16 teachers, administrators, Department of Education staff, and other educational professionals.

For more information contact [Norinne Smokey Smith](#) or [Judy Blue Horse Skelton](#).

## ODE News Briefs

### ODE Telephone Numbers to Change This Spring

In May, the Oregon Department of Education will convert its current outdated telephone system in the Public Service Building to a new and improved one. The main telephone number for the Department will remain the same (503-378-3600), but all other numbers will be changed.

The Department will receive the new telephone numbers prior to the May change date, and we will publish new Department directories and post them online in February. Updated

directories will also be delivered via e-mail listservs at that time. Remember, the main number will not change, and you will always be able to call the main number and ask to be transferred to the staff member or department you are trying to reach.

For more information, contact [Gene Evans](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2237.

### 2006-07 School Calendar is Online

In 2007 daylight savings time will be extended. Here is a link to those dates, <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>.

Need to know the exact date of the 2006 State Inservice day? What about Spring Break 2007? The calendar shows legal holidays, inservice and end-of-quarter dates, commemoration and recognition dates, daylight savings/standard time change dates, and other valuable information. The school calendar is online at [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=49](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=49).

### Expanded Options (SB 300) Administrative Rule Hearing

A public hearing on the proposed Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for the Expanded Options Program will be held **Tuesday, March 21, from 1-3 p.m., in room 251A of the Public Service Building** at 255 Capitol Street NE, Salem.

The notice of proposed rulemaking and hearing will also be available in the March Oregon Bulletin. Click "Current Bulletin" at <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/banners/rules.htm>, then click "Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Hearings/Notices."

The proposed OARs are available at: [www.ode.state.or.us/stateboard/meetings/022006/sb300rules021606.doc](http://www.ode.state.or.us/stateboard/meetings/022006/sb300rules021606.doc).

Personal appearance at the Mar. 21 hearing is not required. Written testimony may be submitted to [ODE.SB300@state.or.us](mailto:ODE.SB300@state.or.us) or fax 503-378-5156, Attention: SB 300. The ODE.SB300 e-mail address is a "receive ONLY" mailbox with no reply generated. Written comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. PDT April 7, 2006.

### Request for Standards Newspaper Articles

A variety of articles are needed for the 2006-07 *Oregon Standards* newspaper. The standards-focused articles selected will be published in the newspaper and the authors will be presented with tokens of thanks.

Topics are: school improvement and planning, accountability, professional development planning, effective teaching and learning, supportive school culture, systemic leadership, integrated systems and structures, or family and community engagement.

For more information, contact [Drew Hinds](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2268.

## TESA Will Be Required in 2006-07

Over the past 3 years, Oregon schools have adopted Technology Enhanced Student Assessment (TESA) at an astonishing rate. As of 2004-05, approximately 85 percent of all multiple choice tests were administered via the web-based infrastructure.

As a result of this shift and the economies of scale, the mass printing of paper and pencil tests is no longer fiscally responsible or sustainable. Therefore, TESA will be mandatory for the 2006-07 school year for mathematics, reading, and science multiple choice tests for grades 3-8 and CIM-level tests. Paper and pencil tests will only be available as an accommodation which must be determined by the classroom teacher for each content area based on an evaluation of each student's needs. Justification for the accommodation may be required as part of the paper and pencil ordering process and may be audited by the Department of Education.

For further information, contact [Sabrina Ganoë](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2251.

## Stipends for Schools—Family Involvement

In an effort to help schools jump-start a family involvement policy with all parents—including those from traditionally underrepresented families—the Chalkboard Project is joining forces with the Oregon Department of Education to launch a first-ever policy template that ensures all schools are reaching out to parents in a unified, thoughtful way.

### Awards

Chalkboard will award \$1,000 stipends for up to 10 public schools willing to encourage early adoption of new policies and practices established by the Department of Education that foster better communication between parents and schools. Applications are due Mar. 15, and winners will be announced at the end of March.

For information, go to [www.chalkboardproject.org/](http://www.chalkboardproject.org/).

## Commodity Orders for April Distribution

This is the last opportunity for you to spend your 2005-06 commodity entitlement.

If you have entitlement dollars you want to spend on surplus items, you must allocate and order them between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., on the third day of the order cycle (see "Entitlement Surplus" date and time below).

If you do not have entitlement dollars, you may order bonus items from surplus, from 3 p.m. on the third day until 1 p.m. of the fourth day, of the order cycle (see "Bonus Surplus" dates and time below).

### First Order Cycle dates:

**Allocation**—opens 8 a.m. Mar. 20; closes 10 a.m. Mar. 22

**Entitlement Surplus**—opens 10 a.m. Mar. 22; closes 3 p.m. Mar. 22

**Bonus Surplus**—opens 3 p.m. Mar. 22; closes 1 p.m. Mar. 23

### Second Order Cycle dates:

**Allocation**—opens 8 a.m. April 3; closes 10 a.m. April 5

**Entitlement Surplus**—opens 10 a.m. April 5; closes 3 p.m. April 5

**Bonus Surplus**—opens 3 p.m. April 5; closes 1 p.m. April 6

For more information, go to the Commodity Food Distribution Program website, [www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=210](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=210) or contact [Beverly Hassell](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2622, or [Mary Erickson](#), ext. 2618.

## Numbered Memoranda Overview

Numbered memorandum sent out since the February *Pipeline* is listed below.

DATE	MEMO No.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Feb. 22	<a href="#">18-2005-06</a>	TESA Requirement

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