



OAESD

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICTS

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Douglas ESD Adopts Iris Connect Technology

In 2016, Douglas ESD was looking for a better way to connect educators. Because they are located in a rural community, face-to-face meetings require a lot of travel, time, and often cost too much. Douglas ESD decided to purchase two start-up kits from [IRIS Connect](#) and start a program where teachers, administrators, and coaches could use technology to record themselves and reflect on different practices. Because of the district's small size, it is not uncommon to have one person teaching an entire grade level or even an entire department. Since many teachers long to collaborate with like-minded educators and learn quickly by watching others in action, Iris Connect seemed like the perfect fit.



In starting this project, Douglas ESD quickly found that teachers were reluctant to have cameras in their classroom recording their teaching. That first year was mostly ESD coaches setting the system up and recording themselves and providing professional development or modeling lessons.

The second year became much more teacher focused. Coaches and mentors would record teachers and use the Iris Connect platform to provide time-stamped feedback from their lessons. They would also capture clips of exemplary teachers to show during regional workgroups. If workshops were discussing trauma-informed practices, they would record a teacher building their students' working memory. If they were discussing call and response cues, they would work to capture that as well.

The third year, teachers and administrators started to come up with ideas and practices of their own. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) started to pop up and recorded each other practicing strategies, principals captured behavior triggers between students and staff to spark conversations, and curriculum specialists recorded themselves during trainings so absent staff had a way to make up the material.

Going into their fourth year, they hope to continue growing their ideas to connect teachers within their schools and collaborate within Douglas County. In partnering with [Oregon Technology Access Program](#), they will be investigating the use of 360 degree cameras and how teachers respond to experiencing model lessons in a virtual reality setting.

Accelerated Credit in Oregon

[Accelerated learning](#) programs are educational experiences that allow students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school. Oregon boasts three distinct models for Accelerated Credit that are defined by the standards set forth by the [Higher Education Coordinating Commission](#). These models are Dual Credit, Sponsored Dual Credit, and Assessment-Based Learning Credit. They include allowances for robust professional development in establishing teacher certification requirements and have been successful in creating equitable access for all students across the state, with a focus on under-served and under-represented student populations. In their first year, Regional Promise schools were able to shrink the equity gap for all historically disadvantaged groups compared to the prior year. In rural schools, the percentage of students accessing dual credit increased from 18% to 54%, and in non-rural schools from 13% to 18%. Increased access, coupled with programming designed to establish and maintain a career and college-going culture, have

produced dramatic results and expanded opportunities for students.

The benefit to individual students and their families is exciting. As an example, the Willamette Promise program has served 9,000 students in 60 high schools since 2014. These students have earned 57,300 credits in 30 different courses. Over 40% of these students are considered economically disadvantaged, and a similar percentage are students of color. The tuition savings to families alone, at over \$12,000,000, changes the way our communities look at their future.

The Regional Promise programs continue to make great progress on issues such as teacher certification and credit transferability. This has been possible due to years of advocacy by local ESDs, OAESDs, and our education partners. At the start of this academic year, Oregon State University pledged to accept all Willamette Promise courses as they would courses provided on campus at Western Oregon University. This is a significant step in providing equitable access to students and in continuing to push Oregon to the front of equitable practices in accelerated credit.

Recap of the OAESD Fall Summit



OAESD just wrapped up their Fall Summit in Portland. It was attended by 110 participants and included numerous presenters covering a variety of topics.

Lindsey Capp, Oregon's Chief Education Officer, kicked off the day talking about ESD's role in removing barriers and bias for students. He talked about the importance of ESDs providing equity and excellence. Much of his talk revolved around the new Student Success Act and the changes and challenges it brings. The last half of Lindsey's presentation included table

discussions and feedback he could take back to the Governor's Office for additional consideration.

The next presenter was Scott Nine of the Oregon Department of Education. Scott is leading the new office to shepherd the Student Success Act and the district grants; he spoke about the timeline and steps towards implementation of the Student Success Act. He too believed ESDs would play a pivotal role in this new work.

In a change from past Summits, this year time was allotted for three rounds of short breakout sessions. Topics from the first round included: [Cascade Alliance for Equity](#), the racial justice impact tool, and advancing with equity. The second round was [hot legal topics](#), monitoring performance growth, and [local service plan programs](#). The last sessions covered [digital orchard classrooms](#), [data analysis for high school success](#), and ESD roles in information security.

After lunch, there was an overview of the new initiative for the [Regional 16 Comprehensive Center](#). This is OAESD joining 28 regional partners in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. The goal is to provide capacity-building services to State educational agencies, like the Oregon Department of Education, to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, and improve the quality of instruction. The final session of the day provided an overview of each of the [current OAESD initiatives](#), a preview of the upcoming legislative session from the OAESD lobbyist, and updates on the work of the OAESD Governance Council.

Even as the Fall Summit concluded, planning is already starting for the OAESD Spring Conference to be hosted at SunRiver Resort in Central Oregon on May 10, 11, and 12.

Lake , Lane , Linn Benton Lincoln , Malheur , Multnomah , North Central , Northwest Regional , South Coast , Southern Oregon , Wallowa , and Willamette Education Service Districts.

Does your ESD have something interesting going on the rest of the state should know about?

Send your ideas or suggestion to info@oesd.org