



OAESD
Oregon Association of
Education Service Districts

'From Hope to Change' at the AESA Conference

In addition to the two conferences OAESD offers each year, the [Association of Educational Service Agencies](#) (AESA) hosts a national conference at the end of November. This year's conference was located in San Antonio, Texas. OAESD Chairman and Columbia Gorge ESD board member Paul Zastrow attended the event and provided his feedback.

"The title of the conference was 'From Hope to Change: Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice.' More than 800 attendees were at the conference. I tried to attend sessions that both interested me and were hot topics for education in Oregon. The opening session 'Leading with Poverty in Mind' was delivered by Dr. Eric Jensen. He spoke to the issue of brain research of students in poverty, the reasons they often make their decisions, and what we can do to provide them better educational opportunities. He pointed out that coping mechanisms are learned early by many of these kids and that overcoming them becomes more difficult during the early academic years. Quality teaching, great schools, along with mentoring, is truly the answer."

"Another topic that interested me was in the area of [Career Technical Education](#) (CTE). Different states and agencies tackle this in a myriad of ways. Some CTE programs focus on rural poverty or job loss as kids move away and leave smaller towns with a dwindling work force. Often it seems that school districts in rural areas lack the funding to create offerings that could allow their students to gain needed skills to make them employable after high school or enroll in community college coursework. Several districts and ESAs in southwest Minnesota have joined forces to offer such classes. By sharing resources and staff, they ensure kids have access to the necessary education to gain employment. Some of this is done by districts coming together through their ESA and offering regional coursework. Students can travel to other districts when necessary, scheduling is flexible around student availability, and courses are offered with the hope no student will travel more than thirty minutes away. Thus, pooling of students and coursework allows greater success and even increased graduation rates. They required a minimum enrollment of ten students to effectively offer those classes. To add to the regional delivery idea, they clustered course offerings, with no district or community college having a majority of the classes."

"I urge your local ESD to consider sending board members or staff to attend this annual event, as it can open eyes and generate ideas for success." The [2018 AESA conference](#) will be held November 28 through December 1 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The theme will be 'Courageous Leadership Inspires Bold Action.'

**Courageous Leadership
Inspires Bold Action**

**AESA Annual
Conference**

November 28 –
December 1, 2018

The Broadmoor Resort
Colorado Springs, Colorado



Legislative Update

Ballot measure 101 passes in the most recent special election. This will not address Oregon's long-term revenue problems, but it will keep the 2017-19 State budget balanced. Its passage also provides more certainty for legislators and allows them greater flexibility about the topics they will be focusing on in the short session.

So far, 240 bills have been filed for consideration. Of those bills, OAESD is tracking 34 bills of interest to ESDs and K-12 education. The [BillTracker report](#) provides a brief summary of each bill, the bill number, and a link to the full bill. If you have any questions about their implications for your ESD, please contact

Bill Activity Report		Report Date: January 24, 2018	
Bill Name	Subject	Priority	Last Three Actions
HB 4022	PERS	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to membership of related members of the Public Employees Retirement System; prescribing an effective date			
Excludes certain on-provision allowing related members of Public Employees Retirement System to be employed by participating public employer on transfer of career and technical education without loss of retirement benefits.			
HB 4071	No Priority	0	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to State Board of Education membership; declaring an emergency			
Provides that Deputy State Treasurer or Deputy Secretary of State may serve on State Board of Education.			
HB 4073	PERS	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to bonds			
Requires school districts to obtain approval from Department of Education before entering into lease division agreement for payment of debt service on pension obligation bonds.			
HB 4028	Miscellaneous	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to state bonds; prescribing an effective date			
Modifies disposition of certain estimated excess corporate excise tax revenues by dividing estimated excess between Education Stability Fund and Oregon State Tax Fund.			
HB 4076	Charter Schools	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to participation in interschool activities; prescribing an effective date			
Requires school districts to allow homeschooled students and students who attend public charter schools to participate in interschool activities, regardless of whether activities are governed by voluntary association that administers interschool activities.			
HB 4044	Personnel	2	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to a study about education; prescribing an effective date			
Directs Chief Education Office to conduct study on recruitment, retention, mentoring and professional development of educators who serve students from underserved groups that may be at risk for experiencing achievement gaps.			
HB 4047	Students	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to high school diploma requirements			
Prohibits education service districts from imposing high school diploma requirements that are in addition to requirements established by state law if child is enrolled in educational program under Juvenile Delinquency Education Program or Youth Connection Education Program.			
HB 4051	ESD's	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to local education; declaring an emergency			
Establishes Task Force on Rural Education.			
HB 4053	Miscellaneous	1	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to accelerated college credit programs; declaring an emergency			
Requires Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to jointly prepare annual report on accelerated college credit programs.			
HB 4058	Miscellaneous	2	01/22/18 - Process Released to the Public
Relating to grants for early childhood programs; prescribing an effective date			
Establishes Early Childhood Equity Innovation Fund.			

[Gary Peterson](#)

OAESD is in the process of gearing up to advocate for ESDs this session. The Governance Council recently adopted our [statewide legislative priorities](#). They include fully funding of Measure 98, resolving the transfer of college credits for the Promise program, support for rural schools and students, initiatives to reduce chronic absenteeism and raise graduation rates, supporting the continued work of the taskforce on threat assessment, seeking ESD representation on the Educator Advancement Council, preserving and expanding support for early childhood programs, supporting mental health service for students and families, addressing PERS costs, and opposing any addition to the subjects of mandatory collective bargaining.

Harney ESD Adopts Adaptable Dashboard

Harney ESD recently made the move to Goggle Tools. Many K-12 schools in northeast Oregon are using the suite of products. Eric Nichols, Director of School Improvement and Technology, said the move was an effort to get information on any student in the district with a few clicks. More traditional School Information Systems (SIS) often require multiple drill downs, clicks, and reports. An additional bonus to Harney ESD is that the Google software suite is free for schools.

This new dashboard quickly shows attendance, behavior and other demographic data. Unlike many data warehouse projects, there is no wait time to view charts or graphs. Additional features can be accessed on the spreadsheet itself by using drop-down validation fields that can be selected for different teachers or students. Using the behavior tracker, you can access information about student behavior and incidents.

The [Gsuite Dashboards](#) are using Google Sheets and then the data is automatically extracted from the school's Student Information System each evening and automatically updated to provide graphics and charts summarizing critical data. The biggest strength of this product is the ability to take disaggregated and complex data and provide easily discernible reports leaders and staff can understand. "Having gone through a number of school information system changes in the past, there is no doubt that change can be hard," Nichols explained. "This change was not hard. It is user friendly and will benefit school districts and programs immediately."

Save the Date for the OAESD Spring Conference

If you have not yet heard, the dates are set for the annual OAESD Spring Conference at [Eagle Crest Resort](#), in Central Oregon. The conference will have a new format this year and will start mid-morning on Thursday, May 17 and conclude in the afternoon of Friday, May 18.



A lot will happen over these two days. The OAESD Governance Council will be meeting before the conference starts. There will be keynote speakers and presentations, legislative updates, breakout sessions, and time to meet with exhibitors. Thursday night will be the annual banquet dinner and recognition ceremony for programs receiving Innovation Awards. Each of these Innovation Award winners will be making presentations and sharing their knowledge in the morning sessions on Friday.

More details will be made available as we get into spring. For now, make sure you have the conference on your calendar for May 17 and 18.

Does your ESD have something interesting going on the rest of the state should know about? Send your ideas or suggestion to tucker@oaesd.org

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