



# OAESD

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICTS

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## K-12 Cybersecurity: The ESD Role

Cybersecurity is a daily news headline—a new data breach, a new ransomware case, a new payroll or tax scam. Increasingly, the headlines include schools and the personally identifiable information (PII) of our students and staff. School districts have become lucrative targets for hackers and criminals.



Oregon ESDs collect and store data for students in ESD programs that range from [EI/ECSE](#) to [CTE](#) and College Readiness. Most ESDs also manage student, employee, and finance data for our constituent districts. **All of this data is vulnerable.** The most relevant threats right now are [phishing attacks](#) that allow a hacker to gain access to an employee's credentials and ransomware that locks users out of information systems. Recent phishing attacks have resulted in payroll or vendor payments being diverted to the hacker's bank accounts. This activity intensifies in tax season, as criminals try to get access to W-2s and electronic tax refunds. Recent ransomware attacks have included access to student PII by the hackers while K-12 system administrators were locked out of the servers, databases, and applications.

In past decades, hacking was often thought of as vandalism or a nuisance, sometimes carried out by the stereotypical bored teenager. Today, it is criminal activity that is driven by money and greed. It is targeted at users more regularly now, rather than at hardware and software systems. This makes user awareness our best strategy to protect our people, our money, and our data as we head into this new decade of new threats. OAESD Chief Information Officers (CIOs) collaborate on security preparedness, including user training and education, defensive planning, mutual aid agreements, and information sharing. CIOs are learning quickly, together. To learn more about digital security visit the [National Cyber Security Alliance](#).

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## OAESD Welcomes New Staff



The new year brought some big changes for OAESD. Most notably, hiring a full-time Program Administrator and a part-time Coordinator for the Oregon Comprehensive Center.

Amber Eaton will fill the Program Administrator role and brings with her more than 15 years of experience supporting Oregon's youth and educators. She has a BA in Psychology, an MA in Teaching from Willamette University, and an administrative licensure through Portland State University. She has been both a teacher and administrator.

Amber was drawn to this opportunity to support education on a broader scale. "This is such a transformative time for education in Oregon, and I am excited to be supporting ESDs throughout the state in their work with districts on multiple initiatives. My role will provide further opportunity to connect programming and support statewide, as well as provide assistance with the connectivity of our ESDs to the Oregon Department of Education. I think the most important aspect of my new role will be in developing relationships with our 19 ESDs and the folks at ODE. I am eager to learn more about each ESD and hear about their strengths and unique aspects."

While Amber will be traveling to meet local ESDs, she is also looking forward to utilizing telecommuting technology to increase meaningful contact. If you have questions about her new role, contact Amber directly at [amber.eaton@lblesd.k12.or.us](mailto:amber.eaton@lblesd.k12.or.us) or (w) 541-812-2661 or (c) 503-949-9563.

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## OAESD Open Leadership Opportunities

Every year about this time, OAESD starts to think about recruiting people to help fill key leadership roles within the Association. OAESD is overseen by an Officer Council, with representatives from both the board of director side and superintendent side. Next year, there will be an opening for both chair-elect and president-elect. These tend to be three-year rotating commitments.

In March, local ESD boards will nominate board members for Chair-Elect. Superintendents will nominate themselves or other ESD superintendents for President-Elect. Nominations need to be turned in no later than March 31. Boards and superintendents cast their vote in April and the results will be announced at the Spring Conference in Sunriver.

If you are interested in getting more information about this process or required responsibilities, contact the [OAESD office](#) or visit the [website](#). The majority of meetings are done electronically. With some flexibility, it is possible for board members to take on this role while maintaining a full-time job.

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## Upcoming Spring Conference

Mark your calendars, the OAESD Spring Conference will be coming up in a few short months at Sunriver Resort in Central Oregon. This year's theme is-- Opportunity Knocks: Oregon ESDs are answering.



The conference kicks off with the President's Reception late in the afternoon on May 10. On May 11, there will be a welcome lunch, a general session, breakout sessions, reception with vendors and the annual dinner banquet and Innovation Awards presentation. May 12 will bring breakfast, keynote addresses, breakout sessions and wrap-up with lunch. The details of the [conference agenda](#) are available online.

[Conference registration](#) is open and will close on Friday, March 20. Sunriver is offering OAESD a 10% discount on all home and condo rentals. So make [reservations](#) for your lodging needs.

Additionally, OAESD is now accepting nominations for the New Ideas in Education awards. Award categories include technology, special education, financial/business services/agency operations, and school improvement. Look over all the [details and nomination application](#) before the deadline on March 13.

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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](mailto:info@oesd.org)