

2019 OAESD Legislative Priorities

The Oregon Legislative session has started. So far 1,679 bills have been introduced. The OAESD lobbyist has identified 205 bills that address school districts, ESD's, or public education in some manner. The full <u>Bill Tracker</u> <u>Report</u> highlights the details of each of these bills. Priory 1 bills are ones that have significant impact for K-12; priority 2 bills are ones of interest to K-12; priority 3 are issues of general interest and not closely related to K-12.

In preparation for the session, the OAESD Legislative Committee has been working to develop a legislative platform. This committee is comprised of ESD Board Members, Superintendents, and the OAESD Executive Director and lobbyist. The platform was drafted by the Executive Director, lobbyist, and Superintendents and will be presented for adoption by the Governance Council on February 7. This year's priorities are:



Education Workforce: Increase diversity and investment in the K-12 teacher and administrator workforce.

Funding: Support 2019-21 State School Fund Appropriation at current service level and adopt a five-year plan to reach the <u>Quality Education Commission</u> recommended funding level by 2025-27.

P-20 Regional Initiatives: Support the continued development of a Regional Delivery System designed to increase the success of all students and offer career training; increase Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education to adequate service levels for 85% of children receiving services (increase of \$30 million); increase funding for grants-in-aid contracts, including regional programs and long-term care and treatment programs.

Accelerated Learning Options: Assure that college credit awarded to students by an Oregon community college or public university in an accelerated learning program shall be transferable as core credits for the student's degree requirements.

Student Safety: Support implementation of the proposed Statewide School Safety and Prevention System.

Legislative Committee meetings are scheduled every two weeks during the session. Committee members receive updates on the session, discuss specific legislation and develop strategies to enhance OAESD positions within our legislative priorities. The next committee meeting will be on January 30. If association members have questions or concerns, please connect with <u>Gary Peterson</u>.

OAESD at the National ASEA Conference



The <u>Association of Educational Service Agencies</u> (AESA) annual conference was held this year in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Oregon's ESDs were well-represented with attendees from Clackamas, High Desert, Linn Benton Lincoln, Malheur, Multnomah, Northwest Regional and Willamette ESDs. The conference drew more than 850 participants from across the nation.

One of the breakout sessions offered was the "Oregon's ESA Support Network" that focused on how to more effectively and efficiently collaborate, coordinate and integrate work with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The session was well received with 40 participants. Much of the interest came from leaders in states where education service agencies receive little or no state funding and individual agencies are constantly competing with each other for department of education work or contracts for services with local school districts.

The session was facilitated by Paul Andrews, Superintendent of High Desert ESD, Mark Redmond, Superintendent of Malheur ESD, Keith Ussery, Deputy Superintendent of Willamette ESD, and Gary Peterson, Executive Director of OAESD. These four presenters also serve on the OAESD program cabinet. Much of the session's discussion involved how the cabinet came into being and how it functions as a guiding body for initiatives which come to it from ODE. Two of the current initiatives of the Network, local district training for multi-tiered systems of support and chronic absenteeism, were discussed as part of the presentation.

Oregon ESDs shared a number of lessons from our collaborative experience. The team explained that leadership is critical and developing a network takes time. They stressed that network implementation requires flexibility and adaptability and it is good to engage partners early in the process. Trust and relationships are critical elements. Regular communication about the networks outcomes help to maintain a vision and reinforce the concept of collaboration.

Intermountain Facilities Project

For almost eight years, Intermountain ESD has had a desire to start a facility program, but the timing had never been right. Recently, a number of external factors came together to move this project forward: state capital construction matching grants, an emphasis on school security, and greater state requirements for facility training (spraying, lead water testing, and radon).

About two years ago, Intermountain ESD created a Facilities Program funded through their local service plan. They hired a retired school superintendent with extensive bond construction and school leadership experience. They also integrated new ideas into their current warehouse, procurement, courier, communications, and grant-writing programs. Their facility program focus on six key areas:

- Five-Year Maintenance Plans: Helping local districts development comprehensive plans to provide a 'starting point' for decision-making.
- Bond Planning and Facilitation: Providing comprehensive support including technical assistance, Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching program, and help through the entire length of the bond campaign.
- Professional learning communities for district maintenance staff: Supporting quarterly regional meetings to provide training, facilitate site visits, and share best practices.
- School Security: Implementation of <u>'i love u guys</u>' protocols in region, school security audits, and active shooter staged event.

- Healthy and Safe School Plans: Collaborating with Oregon Department of Education to provide regional training.
- Comprehensive District Wide Training: Supporting training on areas of combined interest in turf management (in partnership with OSU), integrated pest management, public spraying certification, and water testing protocols.

Recently, Intermountain ESD has developed innovative training focused on the new radon requirements for Oregon schools. They coordinated with the Northwest Radon Coalition to develop training for school maintenance staff with representatives from EPA, Oregon Health Authority, and Cascade Radon Services. They have provided this training for more than 30 school districts and received requests for this training from a number of ESDs across the state.

Nominate Programs for New Ideas in Education

OAESD is now accepting applications for the annual New Ideas in Education awards. These awards recognize innovative ideas by member ESDs and foster a culture of innovation and creativity within each Oregon ESDs. Awards will be given at the OAESD Spring Conference celebrating the best ideas in the categories of technology, special education, financial/business services/agency operations, and school improvement. Check out the <u>details</u> and <u>application process</u> or contact <u>Charissa Geib</u> with questions. Completed applications are due March 22.

Open Position for OAESD Chair-Elect

OAESD is recruiting candidates to fill an open position as <u>Chair-Elect</u>. This volunteer role represents board members on the OAESD Officer's Council. This person will provide governance and support to the Executive Director in developing an annual work plan, creating a schedule of meetings, maintaining an annual budget, and planning and supporting the Association's conferences and workshops. This is a two-year commitment and succeeds the Chair. <u>Nominations</u> need to be submitted by March 22. Local ESD boards will cast votes and the winner will be announced at annual banquet at the OAESD Spring Conference.

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

<u>Oregon Association of Education Service Districts</u> is a partnership between: <u>Clackamas, Columbia Gorge, Douglas, Harney, High Desert, InterMountain, Jefferson,</u> <u>Lake, Lane, Linn Benton Lincoln, Malheur, Multnomah, Northwest Regional, South Coast, Southern</u> <u>Oregon, and Willamette</u> Education Service Districts.