



OAESD
Oregon Association of
Education Service Districts

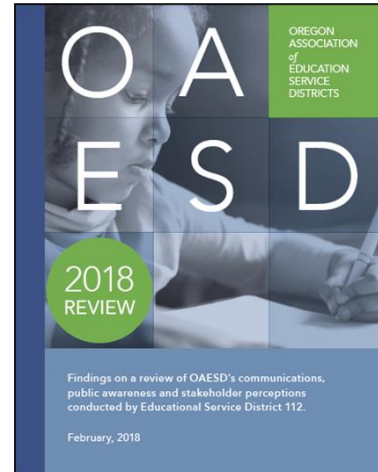
Next Phase of Communication Review

Recently, the consultants working on the OAESD Communication Plan completed the second phase of their work. They finished interviewing a broad group of partners and constituents that included K-12 superintendents, K-12 school board members, legislators, statewide education leaders, statewide nonprofit leaders, and education association partners. Their efforts were targeted at reviewing OAESD's communication needs and assessing public awareness and stakeholder perceptions of the Association.

They produced a very comprehensive 32-page report. From that, they concluded that Oregon ESDs are credible, respected, and trusted partners. The people interviewed recognize the new direction OAESD is heading and believe we are well positioned to serve. There is a perception that ESDs have recently made great statewide strides and are present and appreciated. The most credible messengers for ESDs are the people served by their ESD.

The report recommends the Association does a better job developing talking points to tell our story. It also recommends we continue to remember who our primary audience is, listen to their needs, and advocate for ESDs and local school districts. Lastly, they suggest that OAESD strengthen our internal communications and rebuild the Association website.

Please take time to review the two-page [executive summary](#) of the report. The material helps us understand where the Association is today and where we need to head in the future.



OAESD Spring Conference Highlights



OAESD just wrapped up the annual Spring Conference in Central Oregon. This two-day event was attended by over a hundred participants and six event sponsors including [EDU Staff](#), [LS Networks](#), [OEA Choice Trust](#), [PACE](#), [Moda Health](#), and [Oregon Virtual Education](#).

The Governor's Workforce and Policy Advisor, Elana Pirtle, spoke at the first general session. She talked about the Governor's vision for reducing the cost of the unfunded PERS liability

Later that evening, Karen Gray, Oregon Superintendent of the Year, spoke about the importance of social justice and equity in quality public education. The evening concluded with presentations of the Innovation Awards to programs over six different categories of achievement.

The second day of the conference opened with a general session where participants heard and leaned from each of the Innovation Awards winners. Afterwards, breakout sessions were offered covering a variety of topics including Mixed Reality in the Classroom, Best Practices for Early Warning Systems, Improvement Science, 'A Look to the Future' Visioning Process, and Ready Set Learn-Behavioral Intervention Program. The last session of the conference continued to build on the theme of looking at the vision for Oregon ESDs and how the Association can continue to support our partnering districts and be well positioned in the future to make a positive impact on student achievement in Oregon.

Next year, the conference will stay in Central Oregon, but move to Sunriver Resort. The dates are already set for that. Please plan on joining

for school and ESD districts by relying on side accounts and employee incentive funds. She said the Governor was interested in a conversation about how to reduce the cost of PERS and provide options for local communities about increasing the employee contribution. They were particularly interested in ideas that could bring additional revenue to immediately impact PERS costs over the next few biennia and hope these ideas could provide a one or two percent reduction in overall cost. Afterward, participants chose from breakout sessions that included an overview of the Safe Oregon program, Freshman Success Pilot, the Outdoor School initiative, and ESD boardsmanship. The last session of the day was a facilitated discussion about a vision for OAESD and the need for better communication.

us in 2019 on May15 to May 17.



2018 Innovation Award Winners

Congratulations to each of the six ESDs and their programs that received the 2018 Innovation Awards at the OAESD spring conference. Here is a list of this year's winners:

- The award in the category of **Technology** went to Malheur ESD for the Malheur County STEM and Virtual Reality.
- The award in the category of **Financial/Business Services/Agency Operations** was awarded to Intermountain ESD for their Facilities Training.
- The award in the category of **Special Education** was presented to Multnomah ESD for the Multnomah Transition Specialist Consortium.
- The award in the category of **School Improvement** went to Northwest Regional ESD for their All Students on Track program.
- The award in the category of **Promising Practice** was given to High Desert ESD for their Natural Resources Career Pathways for Opportunity Youth.
- The award in the category of **Significant Practice** went to Douglas ESD for their Ready, Set, Learn program.

ESD Business Managers Partner with ODE

Much of the funding for Oregon ESDs comes through contracts from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) through reimbursement of contract related expenses. Recently, a number of ESD have raised concerns about delays in contract awards and a lengthy period of time to receive reimbursements. This often results in ESDs providing services without a contract and reimbursement of expenses being delayed up to five months or longer. Both of these factors have put a strain on individual ESD's cash flow.

Earlier this year, several ESD business managers collectively forwarded their concerns to Rick Crager, ODE's Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration. In April, ODE hosted a conference call with Rick, his staff, and seven other ESD business managers to discuss challenges with the ODE procurement process, specifically the areas of contract award and expense reimbursement. The meeting was productive and focused on ODE finding ways to streamline the contracting and payment process to get funds to ESDs faster.

ODE is discussing the concept of a Master Service Agreement with the Department of Justice. This would shorten the time to contract awards by incorporating one single "master contract." Additional individual awards would be added through addendums over the course of the year. The current system uses individual contracts for each and every award. ODE has also begun an internal process map of their current business work flows with the objective of identifying inefficiencies in their reimbursement request approval process.

ODE will meet again with ESDs in June to provide an update on both the work of establishing a master grant agreement, as well as its project plan on process redesign. It is ODE's intent to meet with ESD Business Managers on a regular basis to provide updates and receive feedback and suggestions as

they move through the process.

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

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