



**OAESD**  
Oregon Association of  
Education Service Districts

## OAESD Fall Summit Recap

The OAESD Fall Summit just wrapped up. Almost 100 participants from ESDs across Oregon got together the day before the OSBA conference in Portland. Executive Director Gary Peterson opened the Summit with a talk entitled [Who we are and what we do](#) which provided a history of the association, present funding levels, committee structure, and current statewide initiatives. Afterwards, Superintendent Paul Andrews of High Desert ESD and Superintendent Mark Redmond of Malheur ESD gave an update on the [Educator Advancement Council](#).



Next, a group of IT professionals presented on the topic of [Cyber Security for ESDs](#) and provided a handout on [Information Security](#). They said that hackers are drawn to the pristine data of students and that we need to be able to protect all the data that ESDs are responsible for-- students, staff, and our district partners. They shared areas of security risks, such as inexpensive tool kits easily available on the dark-web to attack networks. They also believed the trusting and open-source culture of education often puts us at higher risk for some of these attacks. They highlighted some approaches ESDs could take, such as IT security audits and changing current perceptions from attacks being only a technology problem to also being a risk management problem.

Superintendent Dave Novotney of Willamette ESD and Superintendent Mark Mulvihill of InterMountain ESD talked about [Implementing a Statewide School Safety and Prevention System](#). This proposal addresses four main components: bullying and harassment prevention, a statewide student safety assessment system, youth suicide prevention and wellness, and a statewide school safety tip line. They also made available a handout entitled [Keeping Students Safe](#).

Paul Verstraete and Ewan Brawley updated the group about the OAESD [Chronic Absenteeism Initiative](#). This plan relies on statewide resources and toolkits, professional development and technical assistance, an ODE attendance coach, and the development of a regional consortium. The goal is to reduce overall student absenteeism by 2% each year.

Lastly, Director of Governmental Relations Ozzie Rose and Superintendent Tenneal Wetherell of South Coast ESD provided a preview of the upcoming legislative session. Then Summit participants spent time working at their tables to identify and prioritize critical issues to be incorporated into the OAESD legislative priorities.

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## Frontier STEM Hub Wins National 4-H Award

The Frontier STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Hub was formed three years ago and serves over 5,000 students from eleven school districts in Malheur County in southeastern Oregon. Malheur County has struggled with limited opportunities for graduating students. It also has the highest child poverty rate in the state at 35%, compared to 20% for the state as a whole.

The Frontier STEM Hub was formed as a culturally responsive and multisector initiative that involves both formal and nonformal education, community-based organizations, and industry partners to help fill opportunity and achievement gaps for the students of Malheur County. It works to achieve both college and career readiness for students as well as long-term economic growth and increased competitive and creative capacity in their region.

From this work and partnerships, several initiatives and projects have been created, two of which recently received national recognition from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

The Malheur Youth Health Science Day was organized to show students local career pathways into the

health field. The Frontier STEM HUB, in partnership with OSU Extension, created an event with Saint Alphonsus Medical Center and the science and nursing programs at Treasure Valley Community College. Over the past two years, more than 700 seventh graders have been able to interact with health care professionals and college faculty and students enrolled in medical programs. For this work, Malheur Youth Health Science Day received the national award for Excellence in Workforce Development Programming.

The second program, Malheur Youth Aviation STEM Field Day, also a partnership of OSU Extension and Frontier, brought sixth graders from every middle school in Malheur County to the Ontario Municipal Airport. Students heard from partners at Life Flight, Frazier Aviation, Treasure Valley Community College's Aviation Program, and the Idaho Division of Aeronautics to learn about the local career pathways and opportunities for in-demand fields like pilots, mechanics, and other related professions. Students also engaged in hands-on STEM activities related to aviation to increase interest in STEM. These collaborative efforts were recognized with the national award for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math.

The Frontier STEM Hub has used four guiding principles as they developed these projects: to support and promote STEM learning opportunities; to continuously improve the effectiveness through quality professional development; to strengthen industry and CTE partnerships to increase graduation rates; and to utilize Oregon's Equity Lens. The STEM Hub was covered in a feature article from the [Malheur Enterprise](#) about that work.

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## Oregon Educator Advancement Council Update

On October 12th, the [Educator Advancement Council](#) (EAC) released a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to learn which districts, ESDs, non-profit organizations, Tribes or higher education institutions might be interested in sponsoring "Educator Networks". These networks are intended to ensure educators receive the professional learning and support they need to succeed. The purpose of the RFI is to discover which of these organizations (or consortia of a number of organizations) believe they have the capacity, will and desire to lead a network at a regional or statewide level. Senate Bill 182 created the Educator Advancement Fund that is expected to be allocated at least \$40 million dollars next biennium to fund the activities of the newly created networks.



The EAC was created last year by SB 182 to build upon the recommendations and core values of the Governor's Educator Advancement Council. Paul Andrews, Superintendent of the High Desert ESD, sits in the one seat on the Council allocated to ESDs. One of the main purposes of the EAC is to move away from competitive grants to allocate funds and ensure that all districts, teachers and administrators have access to mentoring, professional development and other locally-defined means of educator advancement.

ESDs are uniquely situated to become Regional Educator Networks. If the goal is truly to ensure that every school district is supported by a network, and knowing that the state does not want to simply allocate the money to each individual district, ESDs are logical sponsoring organizations. The ESD Superintendents have talked about what regional networks can look like and are working together to figure out how to ensure that all districts are represented in a network. The RFI deadline recently closed and we hope to hear soon about which organizations are selected to sponsor regional networks.

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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 [cgeib@oaesd.org](mailto:cgeib@oaesd.org)

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