



OAESD
Oregon Association of
Education Service Districts

OAESD Chronic Absenteeism Project



House Bill 4002 was introduced in the 2016 legislative session at the request of the Chief Education Office and Oregon Department of Education (ODE). It required ODE to develop a statewide plan to identify and address chronic student absenteeism. In 2017, the Legislature approved the Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Plan and provided funding to ODE to begin implementation. The goal is to publicly identify the degree of chronic absenteeism in Oregon and provide technical assistance and best practices to support schools and districts in their

efforts to reduce absences. ODE reviewed attendance data from the 2016-2017 school year and determined the degree of chronic absenteeism by percentages in Oregon's school districts.

The OAESD Support Network applied for funding to support regional efforts of coaching and assistance for schools and districts throughout the state which have chronic absenteeism rates between 10.1% and 29.9%. The projected outcome of this effort will be a decrease in the rate statewide by 1.9% during the 2017-2019 biennium. ODE will work directly with school districts above 30% absenteeism rates.

Utilizing Clackamas ESD as the fiscal agent, the OAESD Support Network received a \$2.7 million grant to be spent on activities identified in the Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Plan. These funds are being distributed to eight regions utilizing 17 ESDs and will be spent on a statewide coordinator, regional coordinators, targeted district activities, and general awareness related to chronic absenteeism.

Regional coordinators will focus their efforts on professional development and coaching for all staff in schools and districts. This training will help develop their ability to encourage and support students in attending school on a regular basis, develop district and school attendance teams, support parent and community meetings to gain feedback on how to get and keep students in school on a regular and timely basis, facilitate community engagement activities for parents and students throughout the entire school year, and create public awareness campaigns.

All Students On Track- NWRES D

Northwest Regional ESD has a vision of obtaining a 90% high school graduation rate with no gaps across any demographic groups. To accomplish this, they set a goal to have 95% or more of the region's 9th graders on-track to graduate by the end of their 9th grade year.

NWRES D serves 20 school districts across four counties from Beaverton to Astoria and south to Sherwood. Collectively, there are 124,000 students across the region with an average high school graduation rate of 84% and 86.6% of 9th grades are on-track. For Latinx students, the graduation rate and on-track rate are both 77%. For students in poverty, the graduation rate is 75.5% and the on-track rate is 74.8%. While these percentages out pace Oregon's statewide average, it still means 1,526 students are not graduating high school every year.

At the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, the NWRES D partnered with the University of Oregon and University of Chicago. They exposed school and district teams to research and best practice from the University of Chicago Consortium of School Research and Network for College Success. School staff learned how to utilize Improvement Science rooted in equity and deeper learning practices to shift school and district systems to better serve students, specifically historically underserved students. NWRES D structured this professional



Why Focus on 9th Grade?

According to research from the University of Chicago, students who are on track in 9th grade are almost four times more likely to graduate from high school than those who are not (Allensworth & Easton, 2005). Being on track is defined as having five credits by the end of 9th grade and no more than one semester F in a core subject (Allensworth & Easton, 2005). The 9th grade on track indicator more accurately predicts high school graduation than all other background indicators including 8th grade test scores, race, economic status, gender, and mobility combined (Allensworth & Easton, 2005).

While 9th grade on track is the most predictive indicator of high school graduation, attendance is also closely associated. For students who miss four or fewer days per semester, their graduation rates are 87%, while students who miss between 5-9

learning through quarterly institutes and offered teams coaching in between sessions.

NWRESA developed a [toolkit](#) for school leaders that synthesizes the findings and practices discussed during this past year of professional learning. This toolkit offers a roadmap and resources when working to improve 9th grade on-track and high school graduation rates in schools and districts.

Officers Council Approves Updated ByLaws

The OAESD Officers' Council recently submitted a proposal to the OAESD Governance Council to review. The proposal was a series of updates and changes to the OAESD ByLaws. The proposal was vetted by both the OAESD Bylaws Review Committee and Executive Director.

"These changes are designed to update and streamline the decision making process for our organization, empower our Executive Director, and update language and processes that have fallen out of date," explained Dave Novotney, OASD President.

Changes to the bylaws are also paired with the development of detailed job description for the Executive Director and a set of operating agreements between the Executive Director and the Officers' Council. These changes allow the OAESD Bylaws to simply provide the governance structure for the organization and relies on the job description and operating agreements to review and evaluate the performance of the executive director.

These changes were voted on and unanimously adopted by the full OAESD Governance Council in September. Please take a moment to review the changes in the [updated OAESD Bylaws](#). Additions to the old Bylaws are highlighted in yellow and deletions are highlighted in red.

OAESD Fall Conference

Students are back in the classroom and November will soon be here. Make sure and put a note in your calendar about the 2018 OAESD Fall Summit. It will be held on Thursday, November 8 at the Portland Downtown Marriott. As in past years, it will be the day before the [Oregon School Boards annual conference](#), so many will already be in Portland area.

The focus of this year's event will be a dialogue with our partners on the topic of Oregon Education. We have invited representatives from [Chalkboard](#), the [Oregon Community Foundation](#), the [Confederation of Oregon School Administrators](#), [Oregon Department of Education](#), and others to speak. The Summit will also feature updates on the Association's Chronic Absenteeism project and the Educator Advancement Council. To register, please contact your local ESD board secretary or Charissa Geib at cgeib@oesd.org or 541-812-2627.

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

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