Last week, we released the results of Oregon’s statewide kindergarten assessment. The results provide a sobering snapshot of the skills our children possess as they enter kindergarten, reconfirming that we still have a long way to go in reaching our youngest learners. But these results also validate our focus on changing the status quo – strengthening and coordinating our early learning system and improving those areas that are most strongly linked to 3rd grade reading, which is one of the strongest predictors of future academic success.

We have long known that reaching our state’s ambitious 40-40-20 goals starts with providing all students with a solid educational foundation in their early years, before they ever reach elementary school. This assessment confirms that it will take the entire community working together to achieve the results we need to see in our state, and it provides parents, teachers and education leaders with vital information. Our new early learning hubs provide us with an opportunity to coordinate and focus this work to get better outcomes for our children. It will take the child care provider working hand in hand with the neighborhood elementary school to identify and provide the skills and supports children and families need before kindergarten. It will take kindergarten teachers and parents working together to address areas in which their young learners may be struggling. It will take smarter collaboration between education, healthcare, and social services to make sure students come to school healthy, well-nourished, safe, and ready to learn.

In addition, as we work to create a system that fosters and promotes equity, these results shine the light on early gaps between groups of students. We know that achievement gaps start early, generally before students even enter kindergarten. We also know that these gaps are most successfully addressed early. We now have the data to identify these early gaps so that we can address inequities in our system and make sure that all students are afforded the opportunity to excel regardless of race, income, or language.

What these results represent to us is opportunity – the opportunity and potential within each and every one of our children; the opportunity before us as educators, early learning providers, parents, policy makers, health care providers, and community members together to provide an unprecedented level of coordinated support to our youngest learners; and above all, the opportunity to dramatically increase the number of students entering our kindergartens ready to learn, grow, and succeed.

Rob Saxton  Jada Rupely
Steps to Success

Educational Technology (Digital Learning) Manager Meetings

The Oregon Department of Education is beginning quarterly meetings of district Educational Technology (Digital Learning) Managers. Based on requests from districts, there is an urgent need for collaborative discussions around topics such as the impact of legislation, the technology to support Common Core instruction, digital learning resources, planning for technology integration, cyber-safety, using the “cloud,” mobile learning, emerging technologies and sharing common challenges and best practices. Educational Technology Manager meetings will be held at the same location and same time as the IT Manager meetings to allow for joint discussions between Ed Tech Managers and IT Managers on key topics. Meetings will be held at the Willamette ESD from 9:00 - 11:30 am on the following dates:

March 7, 2014 - Pringle Room       June 6, 2014 - Oregon Room       September 12, 2014 - Polk Room

To RSVP for one or more of these meetings, please click here. If you need further assistance to attend these meetings, please contact Stacie Ankrum at 503-947-5633. If you have questions about the content of the Educational Technology Manager Meetings, please contact Carla Wade at 503-947-5631.

CCSS Resources

New resources have been added to the CCSS English Learner webpage:

Searchable Database of Tasks, Units and Student Work: Search a growing assortment of Common Core-aligned tasks, units, and student work developed by NYC educators and national experts.

Teaching Resources for CCSS and ELLs: Sets of teaching resources from Stanford’s Understanding Language initiative that exemplify high-quality instruction for ELLs across three content areas: English Language Arts, Math, and Science.

ELL Considerations for CCSS-Aligned Tasks in ELA and Math: This document is intended to inform educators on insights and practical suggestions for accelerating the academic achievement of ELLs in literacy and mathematics classrooms.

DATA webinar

The next webinar in ODE’s Direct Access to Achievement series is set for Wednesday, February 26, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. “Making it Stick: Going from Training to Implementation,” will examine how your district or organization can fully implement the initiatives on the educational landscape today. For connection information, visit the Oregon DATA Project webpage.

Health Ed. Standards

The Oregon Health Education Standards have now been added to the Standards by Design section of the REAL website. Users can create a customized PDF version of the Health standards by grade and can also download the standards in Excel.

District Improvement Planning

Oregon’s school districts are now using the indicators in Indistar to plan for improvement with 1/3 of the districts in the state due to submit by June 30, 2014. ODE is delighted to make available Resources & Research for Oregon’s District Improvement Indicators, a document developed by ODE staff to support educators in creating their district-level plans. Download the document from the ODE website. For more information, feel free to contact Carla Wade at 503-947-5631 or visit http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=201.
2014 Instructional Materials Evaluation

The Oregon Department of Education is looking for nominations of teachers, curriculum specialists, and others who have interest and experience in English Language Proficiency to participate in the Oregon Instructional Materials Evaluation. Evaluators are scheduled to meet July 28 through August 3, 2014 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. This will involve a 7-day (or less) commitment with travel reimbursement and a paid stipend. For additional information please contact Paula Merritt at 503-947-5746.

Nomination Form Survey
(to be completed by your superintendent, principal or supervisor)

Nominee Information Survey
(to be completed if you’ve been recommended by your supervisor and are interested)

Effective Behavioral and Instructional Support Systems Expansion

More Oregon school districts are eligible to receive Effective Behavioral and Instructional Support Systems (EBISS) funding, professional development, and technical support through 2015-2016 to implement and sustain systems of tiered interventions for academic and behavioral supports. EBISS professional development sessions are designed for district/school leadership teams and occur regionally. In 2014-2015, schools, districts, and ESDs in the south and south coast areas of Oregon may participate. In 2015-2016, schools, districts and ESDs in central and eastern Oregon may participate. For more information contact Martha Buenrostro at 503-947-5611. Additional details are available here.

Educator Effectiveness Toolkit Updated

The Educator Effectiveness Toolkit on the ODE website has been reorganized to better support districts in implementing their revised Educator Effectiveness and Support Systems. All of the materials that users have been able to access in the past are still available but have been redistributed under the following seven categories:

- Oregon Framework
- FAQs and Guidance
- Standards for Practice
- Student Learning and Growth
- Observation and Evidence
- Professional Learning
- District Models

Additional materials will continue to be added to the toolkit as they become available. Please contact Sarah Martin at 503-947-5668 with any questions.

PAEMST Award

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the US. The nomination period for K-6 math and science teachers is now open. Applications are due April 1, 2014. For more information about the PAEMST, click here. Please direct additional questions to Cheryl Kleckner at 503-947-5794.

Applied Academic Project Report

Over the last three years, ODE has conducted a research and development project in collaboration with the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education and Lane ESD. The Applied Academic Project focused on creating a one-year math course that aligned to high school standards, met diploma requirements, and engaged students. The final report is now available and describes the professional development process and the impact on students. Questions about the project should be directed to Tom Thompson at 503-947-5790.
Student Wellness

Articles and Resources on Student Health, Wellness, Safety, and More…

Immunization Exclusion Day

Information provided by the Immunization Program, Oregon Public Health Division

Immunization exclusion day this year is February 19, 2014. If students do not have a record showing that they’re up-to-date on all required vaccines (or have an exemption), they will be excluded from school. The Oregon Immunization Program would like to thank parents, schools, and clinics for getting children immunized and helping make sure students can go to school in a safe and healthy environment.

On March 1, 2014, a new law will go into effect that changes the process for claiming nonmedical exemptions to school immunization requirements. The law requires parents/guardians who want to claim a new nonmedical exemption to receive education about the benefits and risks of vaccination, either from talking to a health care practitioner or viewing an online educational module. Existing religious exemptions at your school will still be accepted. Parents wanting a new exemption after March 1, or modifying an existing exemption, will need to provide a certificate signed by a health care practitioner or printed from the online module with their Certificate of Immunization Status.

What can parents do?

- To view school immunization requirements click [here](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/cacfp) (available in English and Spanish).
- If your child is due for a vaccine, ask the clinic about other vaccine recommendations for your child, such as meningococcal or HPV vaccine.
- To find out where you can get shots, call your doctor, pharmacy, local health department, or 1-800-SAFE-

Special Nutrition Grants

Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program Start-up and Expansion Grants are available.

Funds must be used to expand participation in the Afterschool At-Risk Meals & Snacks Program. Sample types of grant activities include purchasing foodservice equipment, costs for repairs to pass sanitation inspections, outreach activities and materials, increased initial labor costs for foodservice or conducting outreach.

Is your organization eligible? Refer to the Afterschool Meals and Snacks Fact Sheet posted [here](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/cacfp). To see the Grant Announcement and download the Grant Application, go to: [www.ode.state.or.us/go/cacfp](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/cacfp); then click on “Special Grants.”

For questions please contact [Darcy Miller](mailto:Darcy.Miller@state.or.us) at 503-947-5899.

Summer Resource Guide

The California School Board Association recently published the Summer Learning and Wellness Resource Guide, made possible by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It is a comprehensive tool for guiding school boards through the research, planning, and implementation process of initiating a summer learning program in school districts or county offices of education.

Youth Photo Contest

The Northwest Health Foundation and the Oregon Public Health Division invite Oregon youth to participate in the sixth annual “The Way I See It” Oregon Youth Photo Contest, themed Health Belongs to Everyone. The contest began on February 1, and entries can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Complete contest rules and submission instructions can be found at: [http://nwhf.org/photocontest/](http://nwhf.org/photocontest/). For more information contact [Jennifer Young](mailto:Jennifer.Young@state.or.us) at 971-673-0245.
### January State Board Actions

At their January 2014 meeting, the State Board of Education took the following actions:

- **Adopted English Language Proficiency Standards Professional Learning Grant/ Temporary Rules/OAR #581-018-0540 to 581-018-0556**
- **Adopted Closing the Achievement Gap for American Indian/Alaskan Native Students Grant/ Temporary Rules/OAR 581-018-0520 to 581-018-0535**
- **Adopted Support for Small/Rural Districts /OAR 581-018-0327 to 581-018-0336**
- **Adopted STEM Lab School Grant/ Temporary Rules/ OAR 581-017-0335 to 581-017-0347**
- **Adopted Eastern Promise Replication Grant Programs/ Temporary Rules/ OAR 581-017-0350 to 581-017-0362**
- **Adopted Implementation of Facilitated Independent Review Process for CCSS Mathematics and Adoption of New Schedule for Materials Review**
- **Adopted Poverty Determination for Purposes of State School Fund Distribution / OAR 581-023-0102**
- **Adopted New OAR Division for Public Charter Schools/ OAR 581-026**
- **Adopted Proposed Revision to Board Policy: Early Childhood Advisor**

[Click here](#) for more information on the January meeting.

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### State Board of Education Updates Oregon Poverty Calculation

On January 23, the State Board of Education adopted a new method for calculating poverty for use in the State School Funding formula. This vote replaces the prior method of calculating poverty with an updated method using more current and accurate data. The 2013 Legislature gave the State Board the authority to make this change in HB 2098.

In the past, the state was required to use Decennial Census data to calculate poverty for the vast majority of districts. However, the Decennial Census stopped collecting poverty information after 2000. Per statute, the state has used this 2000 census data as the basis for determining a district’s poverty funding for the past 13 years. The new system is based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Income Poverty Estimate (SAIPE). This model provides information on the number of students aged 5 to 17 in each district as well as the number of students in poverty. Additional calculations identify the proportion of those students enrolled in public schools.

The new poverty calculation goes into effect in the 2014-15 school year. Districts will receive formal funding estimates in March; however, preliminary information is currently available on how this change will impact district’s funding next school year. [Click here](#) to access funding information by district.

[Click here](#) for more information on the January meeting.
Upcoming Opportunities

**Articles and Resources on Scholarships, Grants, Professional Development, and More…**

### Reading Program

The Reading is an Investment (RII) program aims to promote literacy and financial education among K-5 elementary students in Oregon, and by late January, over 900 Elementary students had entered. Participants who submit an entry form/reading log on behalf of a child are automatically entered into a drawing to win one of 50 Oregon College Savings Plan accounts. All entries must be received by **May 5, 2014**. For more information about the program please visit [ReadingIsAnInvestment.com](http://ReadingIsAnInvestment.com). If you have any questions please contact **Stephanie Swetland** at 503-373-1903.

### Poster Contest

Oregon 5th grade students are invited to participate in the 2014 Missing Children Poster Contest. The artwork should reflect the theme “Bring Our Missing Children Home.” For more information or to obtain contest materials, [click here](#). Submissions are due February 28, 2014. For more details contact **Julie Willard** at 503-934-0188.

### EdTech Conferences

**EdTech Conference for Administrators:** [Accelerate Portland](#), February 26, 2014. Accelerate your district on the path to technology integration with thought provoking workshops and speakers.

**EdTech Conference for Educators:** [integratED Portland](#), February 26–28, 2014. Learn and collaborate with educators who integrate technology into the classroom.

### Summer Reading Certificates

For 2014, the summer reading program theme is science. The children’s slogan is “Fizz, Boom, Read!” and the teen slogan is “Spark A Reaction.” Teachers, reading specialists, and librarians may present Oregon summer reading certificates to students who read or listen to 10 books over the summer. Please complete this [survey](#) by March 1, 2014 to order free hardcopies of the certificates. Digital copies will be available to download and print June through October 1, 2014. Visit the [State Library’s website](#) for more information about the Oregon summer reading program.

### Data Team Coaching Available

Coaching from Direct Access to Achievement is available to districts who need help establishing or supporting data teams. The project has built a collaborative network of professional development and teams from participating districts often travel and offer their expertise. For more information, contact **Mickey Garrison**.

### Art Integration Sessions

Young Audiences and Portland State University are cooperatively offering Visual Arts for the Classroom Teacher in three art integration sessions at Marylhurst University. Please [click here](#) or contact **Vanessa Abahashemi** for more information.

### Security Grants

In an effort to help campuses prevent and combat violence, Video Insight will donate over $250,000 in video surveillance equipment to schools and colleges nationwide in 2014 via a new Video Insight School Security Grant. For each month in 2014, a school or college will be awarded the software and equipment necessary to implement a video surveillance solution. [Click here](#) to apply for the grant. Please contact **Nicole Segura** at 713-621-9779 with any questions.