As we reach the end of the 2015-16 school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all of the work that we do. Together, we have strived to improve outcomes, and to close achievement and opportunity gaps. We remain committed to boosting graduation rates through a seamless cradle-to-career education system. And, we have a collaborative vision to ensure high-quality teaching and learning in every classroom across Oregon.

I also want to congratulate the class of 2016! During my visits to dozens of classrooms, I have had the opportunity to meet members of this year’s graduating class – students eager to choose from a variety of college and career paths after high school. On one visit at Vale High School I met Aiden, a senior who was excited to demonstrate how the skills and knowledge he had acquired in the automotive program would translate to a career he is passionate about after graduation.

Aiden led a group of local school leaders and myself on a tour of the Vale High School automotive program. He beamed with pride when we stopped to admire the dozens of trophies and awards the program has received over the years. In the automotive shop, a group of ten seniors, including two young women, talked about their experience in the program. The students began the program in their freshman year and shared insight into the skills they have gained as a result – applied mathematics, working in teams, and budgeting for parts and labor. “I look forward to being able to help the economy to do my part in society – to help people, to make a little money, and to fix broken cars,” said Aiden. All of the students have made plans to attend automotive school or to begin working as technicians. They attribute much of their success to their teacher Mr. Barnes and Vale High School’s tight-knit, supportive staff and community.

The skills and pride the automotive program at Vale is instilling in its students is just one example of the many nurturing school environments and programs across the state that are maximizing student growth.

As we look back on the school year and the accomplishments of our graduates, we must credit all of the educators who are a part of a student’s educational journey. This begins with the educators working with our earliest learners, building the skills they will need to be successful in elementary school; those that help them transition into middle school and flourish in high school and beyond.

I want to thank all of the educators who work to ensure that Oregon students thrive. Amidst the hustle-and-bustle of the end of a school year, finalizing grades, and closing up classrooms, I hope you can take a moment to look back on your own achievements.

Thank you for all you do. Have a wonderful summer, and congratulations again to the graduating class of 2016!
Story Time

Career Technical Education Across Oregon

Career Technical Education (CTE) is developing our most valuable resources – our students – by helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation, and real-world experiences they need to prepare for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers. CTE is learning that works for Oregon. Vital elements critical to the success of the programs highlighted here include a dedicated staff, a school culture founded on a belief that all students can learn, and a supportive, invested community.

Dayton Middle and High School, Innovation Academy

Innovate Oregon is a strategic initiative launched by the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) focused on reimagining how we can develop the talent needed to build an inclusive, innovation-based economy. In the summer of 2014, a team from Innovate Oregon was invited to Dayton to launch an Innovation Academy. The partnership has been a transformative experience for Dayton Middle and High School and its community. Read more about the program here.

“Investing in our future means investing in our community.”
– Dayton High Principal, Jami Fluke

Hood River Middle School, Food and Conservation Science Program

For the last 11 years at Hood River Middle School, teacher Michael Becker has been developing the Food and Conservation Science (FACS) Program, an integrated approach to learning. The middle school’s “green building” is a key piece in the evolution of the program, where students explore the science of nutrition. The facility allows students to grow and prepare food while gaining skills associated with greenhouse operations, such as energy production and conservation, marketing, and technology.

Vale High School, Automotive Program

More great photos of the program on their webpage here!

“To go from graduating high school to being head technician in a shop with just the skills I learned in high school is a big part of my life.” – Vale Auto Program Student
Teacher Talk

Senate Bill 612 Implementation Update

The Oregon Dyslexia Advisory Council (ODAC), consisting of 34 stakeholders from across the state, was formed in March of 2016. The charge of this group is to provide guidance and input that will inform the work of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in implementing the requirements of Senate Bill 612 in Oregon districts, including:

• Developing a plan to ensure that every kindergarten and first grade student receives a screening for risk factors of dyslexia.
• Providing guidance for districts on notifying parents of students who are identified as being at risk for dyslexia based on the initial screening.
• Submitting a report on the plan to the interim legislative committees on education by September 15, 2016.
• Ensuring that one K-5 teacher in each elementary school has received training related to dyslexia.
• Developing a list of training opportunities that meets the criteria as outlined in the bill.

To follow the work of ODAC over the summer months, click here.

$5,000 Teacher Stipend

Education First is offering a stipend for teachers as part of their work with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and NoVo Foundation. Their goal is to support teacher-led projects that foster social-emotional learning (SEL) skills in students in grades K-12.

$5,000 will be awarded to individual teachers or groups of teachers to implement the project in their classroom(s) in the 2016-17 school year. Awardees will also have the opportunity to present their work to a group of national SEL practitioners, experts, and advocates at a convening in October 2016. The deadline for applications is Monday, June 13, 2016. The Request for Proposal and application materials can be found here.

Math Learning Pilot Grants

The Oregon STEM Council in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) are proud to announce the awardees for the Adaptive Math Learning Pilot grants for the 2016-17 school year. The adaptive math learning grants will provide the opportunity to pilot learning technologies in Oregon classrooms, grades K-8. A total of 17 school districts across the state will pilot 15 programs. A list of selected districts and adaptive math programs can be found on the ODE announcement page. Feel free to contact ODE Specialists Mark Freed and Dan Findley with any questions.

Instructional Materials Adoption Criteria Committees

The Oregon Department of Education is currently seeking teachers, curriculum specialists, and other experienced professionals for the Health Instructional Materials Adoption Criteria and the Physical Education Instructional Materials Adoption Criteria committees. These committees are tasked with drafting adoption criteria for the selection of instructional materials. The application and further details can be found here. Please contact Vanessa Clark with any questions.

AP Workshops

The High Desert Education Service District is excited to host Advanced Placement (AP) and Pre-AP Workshops in Central Oregon. These workshops will be held from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on August 5, 2016 at Summit High School. Look for full week-long AP institutes in Bend the summer of 2017. Registration costs are $150.00 per person. Registration will close July 29, 2016 or as each course reaches maximum number of participants (30 people). Click here for more information and to register.
Steps to Success

Continuous Improvement Plans

With the December 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ODE released an Executive Numbered Memo suspending submissions for District Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs) due June 30, 2017. This has led to a few questions outlined below:

Does the suspension include District CIPs due June 30, 2016? No, until we receive June 2016 submissions, we will not have completed the first cycle of submissions and reviews for all districts. Plans due in June 2017 will be the first affected.

Does this suspend implementation of the plans? No, ODE asks district staff to continue with implementation and task completion. Only submission and review of district plans are affected.

Does this affect school-level plans? No, school-level plans will continue to be due based on individual program schedules.

Who are the contacts for more information?
District-level plans: Jan McCoy, 503-947-5704
Priority/focus school plans: Shanda Brown, 503-947-5809
Schoolwide/Targeted Asst. plans: Melinda Bessner, 503-947-5626

NAEP Technology and Engineering Results

The National Center for Education Statistics released results from its first-ever technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment. From January – March 2014, NAEP tested a nationally representative sample of 8th graders using real-world scenarios involving technology and engineering. 43% of 8th graders performed at or above the proficient achievement level, demonstrating that they can understand interactions within systems, develop solutions, and contribute to teams using common and specialized tools. 45% of girls and 42% of boys reached the proficient level. The full report and example scenario-based tasks are online at The Nation’s Report Card. For more information, contact Oregon’s NAEP State Coordinator Beth Laduca at (503) 947 – 5836.

ESSA Essentials: What You Need to Know Now

Work Group Progress Update:
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) work groups (Assessment, Accountability, School Improvement, and Educator Effectiveness) have been meeting and are working to develop key considerations for the ESSA Advisory Committee to review. The ESSA Advisory Committee is composed of appointed members who will meet for the first time on June 9, 2016. You can find summaries of the ESSA work groups’ work to date, as well as a summary of emerging themes from the community forums across the state, on our website.

U.S. Department of Education Releases Proposed Regulations:
On May 26, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) released a set of proposed regulations for public comment to give states clarity in rethinking their accountability, data reporting, and consolidated state plans. In crafting the proposed regulations, USED considered hundreds of comments from the public and held over 200 meetings and events across the nation, receiving input from a wide variety of stakeholders. Because of this input, the proposed regulations hold great promise for helping schools in every community become more equitable for all students. USED is interested in hearing from all stakeholders, and looks forward to receiving comments during the public comment period open until August 1, 2016. You may view the proposed regulations, a fact sheet, a chart comparing these proposed regulations to No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and USED’s press release on the ESSA resources web page.
Legal Corner

Six-Year Olds Must Be In School

Effective July 1, 2016, the compulsory school age (age at which a child is required to attend school) in Oregon changes from seven years to six years of age. All children between the ages of 6 and 18 years who have not completed the 12th grade are required to regularly attend a public full-time school during the entire school term. A child is considered to be six years of age if their sixth birthday occurred on or before September 1, immediately preceding the beginning of the current school term. Six-year olds may be enrolled in any grade as appropriate, including kindergarten. Parents who choose to educate their child at home must register with their local Education Service District of their intention once the child turns six, not seven. Parents enrolling their children full-time in private schools are exempt from the public school law. The Legislature lowered the age from seven to six in 2015 through Senate Bill 321 to support early learning efforts and full-day kindergarten.

State Board of Education Member Changes

Two new board members will be joining the Oregon State Board of Education on July 1, 2016.

Kimberly Howard, At-Large Member
Kimberly Howard heads Education Initiatives as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility Team at Portland General Electric and serves as Program Officer for the PGE Foundation. She currently serves on the boards of The Center for Performance and Civic Practice, Portland Playhouse, and Oregon Humanities. Other committee work includes the CTE-STEM Employer Coalition, Oregon Learns, and the Ninth Grade Counts Taskforce for All Hands Raised. Howard is an accomplished actress, with credits in New York, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and several Portland theaters.

George Russell, 3rd Congressional District
George Russell was the Superintendent of Eugene School District 4J from March 1998 to July 2011. Before becoming superintendent in 1998, he served as the Executive Director of Human Resources for Eugene School District 4J and previously worked with school districts in San Diego, Seattle, and Oklahoma City. Mr. Russell has and continues to participate in a number of community boards and professional organizations. He is currently serving on the African American/Black Student Success Plan Advisory Committee at ODE and on the Governor’s Council on Educator Advancement.

Thank You for Your Service

At-Large member and 2nd Vice-Chair Angela Bowen attended her last Board meeting in May. Angela served for four years and was an integral member of the Board in advancing educational equity for Oregon students. Third congressional district member Dr. Samuel Henry’s last meeting will be June 23, 2016. Dr. Henry served as Board Chair and Vice Chair during his eight year tenure and was a critical voice for all Oregon students. Both Directors will be greatly missed and we look forward to their continued support of education in Oregon.

From left to right: Salam Noor, Anthony Veliz, Jerry Colonna, Miranda Summer, Angela Bowen, Samuel Henry, Charles Martinez, and Mary Morton.
Upcoming Opportunities

**OR College Application Week**

Oregon high schools and community based organizations are invited to join the 5th annual Oregon College Application Week (CAW). November 2016 will mark the fifth year that Oregon has participated in the American College Application Campaign, designed to increase the number of low-income and first-generation students who enroll in postsecondary education. Sites can register for CAW, College Cash Campaign (CCC), and Decision Day (DD) at one time. Visit Oregon Goes To College to learn more about these initiatives, explore the planning resources, and register your school or organization.

**FAFSA Plus+ Application**

Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) is a critical step in achieving a student’s post-secondary dreams. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) can help schools with real time FAFSA completion data and resources to support students and families in completing this important application. OSAC is expanding the FAFSA Plus+ program as part of the U.S. Department of Education's new FAFSA Completion Initiative. FAFSA Plus+ enables participating sites to provide targeted FAFSA counseling, filing help, and other resources to students and families. Sites are welcome to complete an application here. Contact FAFSAplusa@osac.state.or.us if you have any questions.

**School Library Conference**

Administrators, consider sending your licensed librarians and paraprofessionals to the annual Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) Fall Conference. This professional development and networking event will be in Bend on October 14 and 15, 2016. Registration, pricing, and session information will be posted very soon, but take a peek at the awesome authors who will be there. Questions? Please contact Eila Overcash, Conference Chair, or Jennifer Maurer, School Library Consultant at the State Library.

**Summer Food Program**

As summer break nears, it is important to remember: just as learning does not stop when school is out, neither does the need for healthy and nourishing meals. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides children ages 1 to 18 years of age with the opportunity to continue to receive nutritious meals during summer break, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. Many of Oregon’s schools, libraries, recreation centers, churches, and nonprofit organizations provide sites for summer meal programs. Summer meals sites can be located using the following methods:
- By calling: 2-1-1 or 1-866-348-6479 (1-866-3-HUNGRY)
- By texting: “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877877
- By visiting: www.Summerfoodoregon.org

For more information visit ODE Child Nutrition Programs’ SFSP website.

**Vroom Update**

Based on the latest science and designed to fit into parents’ existing routines, Vroom provides ways to boost early learning. Vroom’s 1,000+ brain-building tips (and other free materials in both English and Spanish here) can be accessed via a free Smartphone app (Daily Vroom). The Early Learning Division (ELD) has built a network of service-oriented pilot sites that are sharing Vroom with the families in their communities. To date, Vroom materials have been shared with more than 40,000 families in Oregon! Those interested in accessing Vroom can visit the Vroom webpage, contact the pilot site in their region by accessing the ELD’s webpage, or they can email Vroom coordinator Ari Wubbold for more information.