

# THE SUPERINTENDENT'S Pipeline

September 2002

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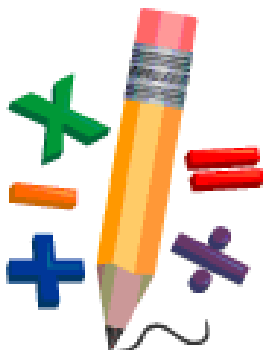
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## Welcome back!



## From My Desk to Yours

A Message from Stan Bunn  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Last Thursday, I had an opportunity to speak to the Governor in a special hearing on the effects of further budget reductions on public schools. I would like to share the gist of my comments with you.

An additional \$482 million in state revenue shortfall this biennium would create a crisis for public schools. Up until now, I have resisted the urge to refer to a "budget crisis," but that has become the only accurate term to use.

A budget reduction to public schools of \$202 million (the K-12 share of across the board \$482 million cuts) would cause the equivalent of laying off 2,850 teachers, 290 counselors and increasing class sizes by 3 students in elementary and middle schools and 4 students in high schools. An alternative would be to reduce school days in all districts by 14 more days. Neither is acceptable.

The conversation must move beyond the need for a balanced budget. Ultimately, we face a choice between continued quality public education for Oregon students or a second rate school system.

For several decades, the Legislature, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and you in the schools have led a statewide effort to create a world-class education system. This system promises high academic standards for each student and opportunities for each child to be challenged to meet his or her full potential. Now we must decide to keep this promise or break it.

If we fail to protect schools from further cuts, we fail to assure our children's future success; we fail to provide economic strength and stability; and we fail to endow future generations of Oregonians with the high quality of life that we presently enjoy.

We must solve this crisis, not by breaking our promise to our young people, but by finding additional revenue to carry us through this shortfall and, ultimately, by establishing a long-term school funding source, including a stabilization fund.

This weekend, the legislature met in its fifth Special Session to deal with the state budget. I have talked personally with a number of key legislators and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

I urge you to pick up the phone today and call your legislators. We must be unequivocally clear about the damage additional cuts will do to education. The reality of what further cuts will do to local schools is a message legislators must hear. Schools must speak from a united platform: no more cuts—we must find additional revenue.

If you have specific ideas to solve this dilemma, share them with your legislators. Many educators and others are talking now about a proposal similar to the one carried out by Governor Atiyeh in the early 1980s—a short-term income tax surcharge. If that is something you can support, do so. But the most important thing to do now is to clearly communicate the real damage that will occur in your district's classrooms if we fail to find a solution.

Sincerely,

Stan Bunn

Oregon Department of Education

## Statewide Assessments Suspended

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education agreed to suspend selected statewide tests for the 2002-03 school year in accordance with direction from the Legislature to cut \$4.5 million from the assessment budget. The tests to be suspended for this coming school year are: Grade 3 Writing; Grade 5 Writing, Science, Math Problem Solving; Grade 8 Writing, Science, Math Problem Solving.

The test suspensions are intended for the 2002-03 academic year only as part of the Department's budget reductions. Both the Department and the Board are committed to restoring the program in 2003-04, barring any additional budget shortfalls.

Tests that will continue for the 2002-03 school year are: Grade 3 Reading, Math (knowledge and skills); Grade 5 Reading, Math (knowledge and skills); Grade 8 Reading, Math (knowledge and skills); Grade 10 Reading, Math, Science (knowledge and skills), Writing, Math P/S.

A paper giving the background and rationale for this decision can be found at [www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/testssuspension.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/testssuspension.pdf). An updated schedule of the assessments for the 2002-03 school year can be found at [www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/schedule.htm](http://www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/administration/schedule.htm).

Contact [Bill Auty](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2359.

## Oregon Public Charter School Start-up Workshop

A Charter School Development Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25, in Salem. Charter school developers and sponsoring districts are encouraged to attend. Topics covered will be: charter school concepts, elements of a charter application, charter negotiations and approval, and charter school accountability. Specific details on the workshop will be posted soon at [www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/charterschools/](http://www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/charterschools/).

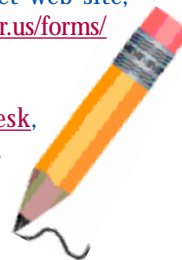
Contact [Joni Gilles](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2276, or [Donna Newbeck](#), ext. 2293.

## 2002-03 Schedule of Data Due Dates Available

The Office of School Finance, Data and Analysis 2002-03 Schedule of Due Dates is available on the web. The new, improved schedule lists the web-based, SMF and paper reports that are due to SFDA during the upcoming school year, and also includes links to the forms, and use of data and contact information. This year we have added report validation dates and report card validation and verification timelines to the schedule.

The Schedule of Due Dates is located on the Department's district web site, <https://district.ode.state.or.us/forms/duedates.htm>.

Contact [ODE Help Desk](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2645.



## SFDA Monthly Videoconferences Start in October

The Office of School Finance, Data and Analysis will be offering monthly videoconferences beginning in October and continuing through May. On the first Thursday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m., SFDA will provide training and updates on topics ranging from data collection to student accounting, financial reporting and the Report Card. Take advantage of these travel-saving training opportunities and join us for 90 minutes every month at a nearby videoconferencing site.

A complete schedule of the Monthly Videoconferences may be found at <https://district.ode.state.or.us/training/calendar/vteltrain.htm>.

Please let us know 3 weeks in advance if you would like to participate or register a site to receive a session. For more information or to register for a training session, please e-mail or call the Help Desk.

Contact [ODE Help Desk](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2645.



## Register Now for September Regional SFDA Trainings

School Finance, Data and Analysis will provide regional trainings starting September on financial and nonfinancial data collections, SMFs, web surveys, student accounting, SSID, assessment precode, the report card, and a variety of news and updates. The free sessions will be held at each ESD in the state. The sessions are designed for both district and school-level staff.

A schedule and agenda for the September trainings may be found at <https://district.ode.state.or.us/training/calendar/May02Train.htm>.

To register go to the Event Registration system at <https://district.ode.state.or.us/events/> or [www.ode.state.or.us/events/](http://www.ode.state.or.us/events/).

Contact [ODE Help Desk](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2645.

## District Security Administrators— Update Your Users



The beginning of a new school year is the time to update your users—the district and school staff who need access to the Department's secure applications for data collection, review, and validation. Remember to delete folks who no longer work for the district, and update users to reflect any changes.

This year you may need to grant access to kindergarten teachers to enter data on the new, electronic "Kindergarten Readiness Survey", which is due at the Department by Nov. 1. You may also get requests to add district test coordinators so they can access assessment applications.

Login to the Department's district web site, <https://district.ode.state.or.us/apps/login/>, and click on the "Web Security" link located on the left side of the page to update your users.

Contact [ODE Help Desk](#), 503-378-3600 ext. 2645.

## State Board Holds Annual Retreat


The State Board of Education held its annual planning retreat Aug. 21-23. A particular emphasis was placed on an in-depth conversation about the on-going school reform efforts and the effects of new policies and changing requirements necessary for implementation of the Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM).

To assist in this analysis, the Board invited four national "thought leaders" to share their insights from other states and national projects and to respond to the issues the Board has under discussion.

The unanimous message from the group was, "Stay the course. Oregon is doing outstanding work. No other state board in the country is having an in-depth conversation like this."

The Board voted 7-0 to proceed with consideration of policy issues related to granting credit for proficiency as an option in addition to the current system of credit for course completion (seat time). Policy

## Flag Salute Clarification

In June 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard a case, *Newdow vs. U.S. Congress and others*, in which reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in schools was held to violate the First Amendment of the Constitution. 

A number of schools have questions about the effect of this ruling on their practices, especially in light of Oregon Revised Statute 339.875 requiring that students be given the opportunity to salute the flag of the United States at least once a week by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the time that the court made its ruling, it also issued a stay on the mandate of the ruling pending further petitions and the possibility of rehearing the case *en banc*.

Because of the stay on the mandate, the ruling is not in effect and schools should continue to follow ORS 339.875, providing students with opportunities to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Issue #3 is "Districts may award credit based on proficiency." The three purposes are as follows:

- To offer flexibility to districts and schools as they meet the diverse needs and interests and different level and rate of learning of each student.
- To create additional options for students while maintaining a strong accountability system and high standards as the underpinning.
- To empower local decision-making and creativity.

Upcoming discussions will focus on implications for school policy and operations. The Board will seek input from the field between September and December.

For more information on the retreat and the Board's calendar for the 2002-03 school year, go to [www.ode.state.or.us/stateBoard/index.htm](http://www.ode.state.or.us/stateBoard/index.htm).

## TESA Applications Still Available

The Department of Education is continuing its recruitment for additional schools to participate in the Technology Enhanced Student Assessment (TESA) process for 2002-03. TESA is an on-line alternative to the Oregon State Assessment.

All schools will take state tests on line using the TESA format by the 2004-05 school year. Over 300 schools participated during the 2001-02 school year. A total of 700 schools will participate in 2002-03.

Interested schools should complete all portions of the brief application located at [www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/tesa/schoolpartapp.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/tesa/schoolpartapp.pdf) and return it by mid-September. The training sessions for TESA will be late September and early October. Testing may begin as early as Oct. 15 for enrolled TESA schools.

Contact either [Chris Minnich](mailto:Chris.Minnich@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 4420, or [Bob Olsen](mailto:Bob.Olsen@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2250.

## Sophomores To Be Assessed in Second Languages This Year




Students in the graduating class of 2005 are to be assessed for proficiency in a second language by the end of their sophomore year, which will be 2002-03.

Districts must set a proficiency level for speaking, writing, and reading in a language other than English. However, districts do not need to spend time and money creating second language proficiency assessments. There are several well-designed assessments available. Information can be found on the Department's web site at [www.ode.state.or.us/CIFS/Second\\_Languages/Administrator's\\_Resources/Administrator's\\_Handbook](http://www.ode.state.or.us/CIFS/Second_Languages/Administrator's_Resources/Administrator's_Handbook).

If you have any questions or need any help, contact [Betsy Costi](mailto:Betsy.Costi@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2278.

## HIPAA Privacy Rule Affects Students and Employees

Many employers, including school districts, who sponsor group health plans will be affected by the new privacy rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Rules address the obligations of health care providers and health plans to limit use and disclosure of health information. The rules also apply to many transfers of information from a group health plan to the employer sponsoring the plan and impose stiff penalties on violators. 

Schools need to be particularly aware of the privacy requirements of HIPAA for student health information. Providing information on medical conditions of and immunization status for students will need to be carefully monitored. In particular the transfer of information in school records that relates to health issues should be scrutinized. Penalties for infractions of HIPAA are severe.

Employers who may be affected by the new privacy rules may want to consult with their legal advisors. Additional information about HIPAA can be found at [cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa1/default.asp](http://cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa1/default.asp).



## Input on Social Sciences Optional Curriculum Sought



Draft 3.0 of the Social Sciences Optional Curriculum (formerly called the Grade-Level Mapping) is now available for public review and comment until Sept. 30. Teachers, administrators, parents, and the public are encouraged to review the materials. Both the Optional Curriculum and a form to facilitate the review process are posted at [www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/socialsciences](http://www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/socialsciences).

Completed reviews should be returned to [Dawn Billings](mailto:Dawn.Billings@ode.state.or.us), Oregon Department of Education, 255 Capitol St. NE, Salem, OR 97310.

For more information about Draft 3.0 of the Social Sciences Optional Curriculum, contact [Andrea Morgan](mailto:Andrea.Morgan@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2289.



## NEA President Bob Chase to Speak in Portland

Bob Chase, two-term president of the National Education Association will discuss his recently released book, *The New Public School Parent: How to Get the Best Education for Your Child*, on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The talk is cosponsored by the Department of Education and Multnomah County Library.

A book sale and signing will follow the talk. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Chase's presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The location is the U.S. Bank Room at Multnomah County Central Library, 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland.

Contact [Karyn Phillips](mailto:Karyn.Phillips@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2215.

## New Technology Plan Criteria Available

No Child Left Behind calls for updated criteria to be included in district technology plans to be eligible for federal funding. The Department will be providing criteria for revised technology plans in October 2002. Information on the criteria is available at [www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/grants/esea/titleiid/](http://www.ode.state.or.us/cifs/grants/esea/titleiid/)

Up-to-date technology plans based on these criteria will be required for Title IID: Enhancing Education Through Technology formula and competitive funding, E-rate Discounts, and Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliance. Although the criteria are very similar to previous technology plan criteria, districts are strongly encouraged to review the updated criteria carefully. Revised technology plans will be due in March of 2003.

## Curriculum and Instruction Specialists Available via VTEL

Curriculum and instruction specialists will be available to discuss concerns and issues important to teachers and administrators on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. For those near to Salem, join the specialists in Studio A of the Public Service Building beginning at 2:45 p.m. for informal chat and networking followed by the live presentation/questions and answers.

Topics of the September VTEL will include reading opportunities, mathematics web-based resources to support revised standards, science and social science optional curriculum, work sample guidelines, and more. For more information contact [Jerilyn Hatch](mailto:Jerilyn.Hatch@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2280.

The curriculum and instruction specialists plan to host three more sessions via VTEL as well as live tours of eastern Oregon ESDs in the fall and southern Oregon ESDs in the spring. Watch for more information in the October *Superintendent's Pipeline*.

## Assessment Regional Meetings Scheduled



The Office of Assessment and Evaluation will conduct a series of regional meetings this fall to share the latest news related to assessment.

District representatives who work with the state assessment, student data files, assessments for special populations of students, and/or data for improving educational programs should plan to attend.

Registration will be available online beginning Sept. 10, at [www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/workshops](http://www.ode.state.or.us/asmt/workshops). As it is critical for each district to receive this information, two additional sessions will be held using V-TEL.

The regional meetings will be hosted by ESDs. Dates and locations are as follows: Malheur & Crook/Deschutes, Oct. 15; Union/Baker & Region 9, Oct. 16; Umatilla/Morrow & Multnomah, Oct. 18; Northwest Regional & South Coast, Oct. 22; Clackamas & Southern Oregon, Oct. 23; Douglas, Oct. 24; Linn-Benton-Lincoln, Oct. 29; Lane, Nov. 7; and the Department (V-Tel and on site), Nov. 8. (The last V-Tel is being scheduled.)

Bring your questions, concerns, and comments about Oregon's statewide assessment and leave with support materials to help make the 2002-03 assessments go smoothly.

Contact [Cathy Brown](mailto:Cathy.Brown@ode.state.or.us), 503-378-3600 ext. 2259.

## School and District Report Card Update

The suspension of some statewide assessments at grades 5 and 8 for the 2002-03 school year has implications for the school and district report cards issued in January 2003. Additional information will be coming soon.

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please contact [Barbara Wolfe](mailto:Barbara.Wolfe@ode.state.or.us), communications team, at 503-378-3600 ext. 2219.