



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Director of the Department of Education

February 1, 2022

Dear Community Leaders,

This letter is intended to reach community-based organizations, culturally specific organizations, advocacy groups, non-profit, business, and faith leaders who provide in and out-of-school support for young people and their families in relationship to Oregon's K-12 education systems.

The aim of this letter is to offer a "heads up" and explanation of information the Oregon Department of Education plans to share publicly on February 8, 2022, along with dates for opportunities to learn more and discuss the information shared.

Responsive to hundreds of requests from educational and community leaders, ODE is taking a step toward aligning and integrating separately created federal and state educational investments focused on innovation and improvement.

The new guidance, titled, "Aligning for Student Success," will be provided more than a year ahead of when applications under this guidance will be submitted to ODE in March 2023. The timing of release is intended to give the time needed for grant applicants (districts and schools) to prepare and operationally align their internal planning for the state and federal programs covered. This timeline also supports higher quality community engagement and more realistic and robust avenues to understand and engage around needs and priorities.

The guidance integrates six aligned programs:

- High School Success (HSS)
- Student Investment Account (SIA) within the Student Success Act
- Continuous Improvement Planning (CIP)ⁱ
- Career and Technical Education - Perkins V (CTE)
- Every Day Matters (EDM)
- Early Indicator & Intervention Systems (EIIS)

ODE's hope and expectation is that students, communities, educators, school leaders, postsecondary, business, and industry partners will now have an even better opportunity to engage and support district and school planning in ways that can improve the well-being, health, climate, quality of instruction, and outcomes for each and every student in Oregon with dedicated attention to focal student groupsⁱⁱ. By aligning these systems and programs, our hope is to create more time and less complicated ways for educational leaders to support students while addressing administrative confusion and burden, a long-held concern.

Said more simply - we want to make the right work easier.

Bringing these six programs together operationallyⁱⁱⁱ creates significant opportunities to improve outcomes and learning conditions for students and educators. Working within existing state statutes and administrative rules, ODE developed a framework for success that meets and retains the core purposes of each program while trying to create a stronger framework from which we can mark progress, look for long-term impacts, and develop the learning approach to monitoring and evaluation that is a hallmark of high-performing educational systems^{iv}. The processes aligned for engagement and needs assessment also equate to stronger opportunities for more meaningful engagement of students, families, and communities.

ODE welcomes the opportunity to explain this new guidance and to discuss the vital role of community organizations and partners in helping it come to life in each and every Oregon community.

We've arranged two sessions that will both include about 45 minutes of presentation and 45 minutes of dialogue in a format we hope you will find helpful.

- Thursday, February 10th from 9-10:30 a.m. ([Register Here!](#))
- Wednesday, March 9th from 3-4:30 p.m. ([Register Here!](#))

Questions, feedback or other opportunities for conversation can be emailed to ODE.EII@ode.oregon.gov and we would be happy to respond.

Thanks for your time and all you offer.

Sincerely,



Scott Nine
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Education Innovation and Improvement

ⁱ **Please note:** This should not be confused with “CIP Budget Narratives” districts are required to submit to access Federal Programs and Title funding which remain on prior timelines and will continue to open annually in August.

ⁱⁱ Focal student groups are currently defined within the Student Success Act and administrative rule as “students of color; students with disabilities; emerging bilingual students; and students navigating poverty, homelessness, and foster care; and other students who have historically experienced disparities in our schools.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Six programs is nowhere close to the 108 federal and state programs ODE administers and there is natural alignment with more than just the six programs this guidance covers. This effort reflects where operational alignment could be reached amidst programs with shared aims, statutory language, and program designs without requiring changes in statute.

^{iv} Schleicher, A (2018), World Class: How to build a 21st-century school system, Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education, OECD Publishing, Paris. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/world-class_9789264300002-en;jsessionid=HRciZlUdeixTV0CU-0Aj4Qf.ip-10-240-5-132