

Education Update



Rob's Blog

Message from Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton

It has been less than three weeks since the events in Newtown, Connecticut, and I continue to be haunted by this senseless tragedy. As a nation, we have been taking a long hard look at school safety as we all work to ensure that our schools, and our students, are as safe as humanly possible.

As we welcome our students back from winter break, it is important that we share information with our families and communities about the measures in place to keep our children safe. We know that our students are actually safer while in our schools than almost anywhere else in our communities. Our educators and administrators do an incredible job implementing strong safety procedures and training staff and students on how to best respond in the event of an emergency.

The staff at Sandy Hook responded quickly and bravely to a horrendous attack, and their preparation and training saved lives and averted an even greater tragedy. Not all such events can be prevented, but we can, and must, make sure systems are in place to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies of all kinds.

I wanted to share some resources that you can use when reviewing your safety plans and working with your students, staff, and families in the wake of the Newtown tragedy.

- The NEA Health Information Network has produced a [school crisis guide](#), designed by educators for educators, to help staff and administrators keep our schools safe before, during, and after a crisis.
- The US Department of Education has a number of resources around [readiness and emergency management](#), [creating and updating school emergency management plans](#), [helping youth recover from traumatic events](#), and [resources for parents following a traumatic event](#).
- The National Association of School Psychologists has a range of resources about [dealing with, and talking to students about, crises](#). They also provide information for school administrators around [reinforcing school safety](#).
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration also provides valuable resources on [coping with traumatic events](#).

I encourage you to reference these or other resources as you review your school and district safety procedures in the coming weeks. I also encourage you to keep the lines of communication open and build strong relationships with students, parents, and community members. We need everyone associated with our schools to know that if they see something, they need to say something. Our greatest protection against this type of violence is a network of trust and vigilance. It is our job to build this network and create the safe space where students and others can report safety concerns before an emergency situation arises.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the vital role you play in keeping our students safe. As educators, this is our most sacred duty and one I know you take incredibly seriously. May this New Year be a time of reflection and healing for our state and our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Saxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "R" and "S".

Steps to Success

Articles and Resources Relating to the Common Core, the Oregon Diploma, the Essential Skills, and More...

New Resources for Early Childhood: Instructional Support and Common Core State Standard Toolkits

The **Early Childhood Instructional Support (ECIS) Toolkit** is available on the ODE website at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3810>. The ECIS Toolkit supports professional development for early care and education staff at the preschool and kindergarten level. One-page guides link to online resources that:

- Strengthen intentional adult-child interactions, focusing on concept development, quality feedback, and language modeling strategies;
- Support child outcomes in language, literacy, math & science standards from the Common Core State Standards (Kindergarten) and the Child Development and Early Learning Framework (Ages 3-5).

The **Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Early Childhood Toolkit** is available on the ODE website at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3548>. The CCSS Early Childhood Toolkit familiarizes professionals in early care and education with CCSS standards and provides resources to facilitate early experiences that prepare children for school success.

For more on the ECIS Toolkit, contact Laurie Danahy at laurie.danahy@state.or.us or 503-947-6500. For more on the CCSS Toolkit, contact Kara Williams at kara.williams@state.or.us or 503-947-5728.

Common Core Resource of the Month – Literacy in Science

As Oregon schools and districts have worked to familiarize themselves with the CCSS over the past year, they have come to understand the important role that the **Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects** play in preparing students to be college and career ready. In the CCSS, literacy is a shared responsibility within the school. Teachers in all subject areas use their content area expertise to help students meet the particular challenges of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in their respective fields. It is important to note that the CCSS literacy standards are not meant to replace content standards in those areas, but rather to supplement them. When it comes to instruction, the **content** of Oregon's adopted Social Science and Science standards should be the focus of "what" is taught. During the course of this instruction, the literacy standards would be addressed by having students engage in reading, writing, and speaking activities specific to the particular content area that allow them to demonstrate the skills described in the CCSS.

A new resource has been added to the ODE CCSS website to support science teachers as they adapt their instruction to meet the demands of the Common Core. Two videos, taken at the 2012 Summer Assessment Institute, capture the session provided by North Santiam SD that focused on strategies and techniques to incorporate CCSS in Literacy into science. The presenters in the videos investigate strategies and techniques to incorporate the CCSS for Literacy into science instruction, which can improve student performance as well as communication of the content in both scientific inquiry and engineering design work samples. They also share a model of collaboration among a district literacy coach and science teachers that can help increase knowledge and skill in teaching literacy in science.

Both videos, along with a viewer's guide, can be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3569>. In addition, a webinar providing an overview on literacy in science can be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3750>.

Teacher Talk

Articles and Resources Relating to Curriculum, Instruction, Special Programs, and More...

Roll Up Your Sleeves with ODE

ODE staff will present new training strands at the **Oregon Association on Comprehensive Education (OACE) Conference**, January 24-25, 2013, at the Seaside Convention Center. This is a professional development event for school and district staff and administrators about federal ESEA programs and ODE initiatives. The ODE-OACE partnership offers a low-cost conference, providing in-depth guidance and skill development. Participation may be supported by Title program professional development funds.

Training Highlights:

- Educator Effectiveness: Teacher Evaluation and Support Plans
- Common Core State Standards/Smarter Balanced Assessments
- ESEA Budget Narratives and District Monitoring
- Indistar® Customized Planning Process Tool for School Improvement

To learn more, contact Dona Bolt at dona.bolt@state.or.us. To register, go to: www.oace.us.

New Videos Inform Parents and Public About NAEP

The [National Center for Education Statistics](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naep/) has produced two new videos to showcase the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naep/). One features the new [Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naep/), while the second describes “[What Every Parent Should Know About NAEP](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naep/).” NCES has also developed a [new mobile app](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naep/) to make NAEP results easy to access. For more information about the many free NAEP resources available to teachers, students, and parents, contact Beth LaDuca, NAEP State Coordinator, at beth.laduca@state.or.us or (503) 947-5836.

English Learners Alliance Conference

COSA and the Oregon Department of Education are sponsoring a State **English Learners Alliance Conference**, March 14-15, 2013 at the Eugene Hilton. This conference will focus on best practices for all English learners. [Click here](#) to register.

College Board Resources

AP Potential

By participating in the PSAT, your district receives free access to [AP Potential](#), an online tool which helps identify students who have a 60% or greater likelihood to score a 3 or higher on 23 different AP Exams. School and district-level PSAT data are now available in AP Potential. Starting this year, AP Potential feedback will also be available to students online in My College QuickStart. Students will be able to view their AP Potential for 23 AP Exams, get recommendations for courses related to their intended major and see which AP Exams were offered at their school last year.

College Board Resources for School Leaders

The National Association of Secondary School Principals and the College Board launched [Leading Success™: Dynamic Solutions for Every School, Each Student](#), a new, free online toolkit for principals and school leaders to help raise student achievement and promote college and career readiness. The toolkit integrates current research, planning strategies, and implementation tools with video interviews and examples of school improvement strategies. The videos show successful strategies for helping students succeed. School leaders can use the toolkit to conduct meaningful conversations with their school staff on subjects central to student and school success:

- Developing Leadership Skills for Change
- Using Data to Assess & Inform School Change
- Creating an Inclusive & College-Going Culture

For more information contact Nancy Potter at npotter@collegeboard.org or 425 643-7989.

Student Wellness

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

Immunization Exclusion Day

Immunization exclusion day is coming soon—February 20, 2013! If students do not have a record showing that they're up-to-date on all required vaccines (or a medical or religious exemption), they will be excluded from school.

Oregon's school/childcare law protects over 650,000 children against eleven different diseases. In 2012, 92-96% of Oregon kindergartners met school immunization requirements. 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.

Dates to Remember:

- **January 16, 2013** - Schools submit the immunization primary review summary report
- **February 6, 2013** - Local health departments mail exclusion orders
- **February 20, 2013** - Exclusion day
- **March 4, 2013** - Schools submit the follow-up immunization primary review summary report

This year, students through 4th grade need two doses of hepatitis A vaccine. In two years, the requirement for hepatitis A vaccine will extend to all students. This means that students currently enrolled in grades 5-10 will need two doses of hepatitis A vaccine by school year 2014-2015.

Planning for Summer Meals Begins Now

Now is the time to begin planning for summer. Hunger does not take a break during the summer when most children lose access to school-based federal nutrition assistance. Meals children receive at school during the school year have a huge impact on their overall health. During the summer months when school is not in session, children often miss out on these important meals. Schools are an important access point for children in your community who depend on the summer food program. ODE urges all superintendents to open their schools and kitchens during the summer and feed their community children by participating in the Summer Food Service Program. If you are a current Summer Food Service Sponsor, we encourage you to operate the program for the entire summer since we know families will depend on free meals to stretch their family budget, and children need the nutritious meal they receive at their summer food site. For more information please contact Barbara Cracknell at (503) 947-5911 or Barbara.cracknell@state.or.us.

How can schools prepare for the expanded hepatitis A requirement? Start now! Find resources about the hepatitis A vaccine requirement by going to <http://1.usa.gov/OregonSchool>. Materials include:

- Parent reminder letter
- Sample email or phone message script for parents
- Hepatitis A readiness checklist for schools



What can parents do?

- View school immunization requirements [online](#) (click on English, Spanish, Russian, or Vietnamese)
- If your child is due for a vaccine, ask the clinic about other vaccine recommendations for your child, such as meningococcal or HPV vaccine.
- Update your child's record with the school every time your child gets an immunization.
- To find out where you can get shots, call your doctor, pharmacy, local health department or 1-800-SAFE-NET. SafeNet has English and Spanish speakers available and access to interpreters in 150 different languages to help find immunization clinics.

Legal Corner

Articles and Resources on Rules, Statutes, Policy, Numbered Memos, and More...

How an Idea Becomes Law

With the 2013 Legislative Session just around the corner, we wanted to provide a simple overview of how ideas turn into bills and can eventually become laws.

The Idea

An idea for a law can come from just about anyone: individual citizens, legislators, state agencies, lobbyists, organizations, businesses, or the executive or judicial branches.

The Life of a Bill—The Early Days

A proposal to change or create a law is proposed to a Senator, Representative, or legislative committee, or, for agencies, proposed to the Governor's Office or Department of Administrative Services. The proposal is sent to Legislative Counsel to be drafted and is then filed with the House or Senate and receives a bill number. The bill is introduced in either the House or Senate for a first reading. The House Speaker or Senate President then assign, or refer, each bill to a Legislative Committee.

The Committee Process

The committee reviews the bill and, if it chooses, holds public hearings and a work session where the bill is voted on. Amendments to the bill may be drafted by nearly anyone (with a note from a Legislator) and incorporated into the final version of the bill. Each bill receives a Fiscal Impact Statement prior to being moved out of committee.

Final Steps

If the bill costs money, it goes to the Ways and Means committee for consideration and bypasses the other chamber's committee process, going directly to the floor. After a bill has passed both chambers in the identical form, it is signed by three officers: the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, and the Chief Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate. If the Governor chooses to sign the bill, it will become law on the prescribed effective date.

To learn more about the journey from idea to law, visit the [legislative webpage](#) for [more information](#) and a simple [one pager](#).

State Board of Education December 2012 Actions

Board actions taken during the December meeting included the following. [Click here](#) for a full list of actions.

- Denied state board sponsorship to Riverside Charter Academy
- Denied the Oregon Virtual Education Charter School (East) Waiver request
- Denied the Oregon Virtual Education Charter School (West) Waiver request
- Adopted the revised General Evaluation and Reevaluation Procedures OAR 581-015-2110
- Adopted revisions to the Accountability Reporting Advisory Committee OAR 581-002-0090
- Adopted the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction rule OAR 581-001-0016
- Approved the following community college programs: Treasure Valley Community College: Aviation Technology; Helicopter; Portland Community College: Dietary Manager
- Approved new student advisor Benjamin Barnes
- Adopted revisions to the Individual Student Assessment, Recordkeeping, and Reporting OAR 581-022-1670

Upcoming Opportunities

Articles and Resources on Scholarships, Grants, Professional Development, and More...

Gray Family Foundation 2013 Environmental Education Program

The Environmental Education Program seeks to encourage a strong local land ethic, sustainable communities, and stewardship of the natural environment by citizens throughout Oregon. **The online grant application is now available.** Over \$700,000 will be available for grants in 2013. Please refer to their website <http://www.grayff.org> for examples of recent successful projects and amounts granted. The current grant deadline is Friday, February 1, 2013. Grants will be awarded in the areas of:

- Outdoor Exploration and Community Field Trips for fifth through eighth grades
- Environmental Professional Development for teachers and volunteer mentors

Nominate Students for the National Youth Science Camp

Two high school seniors from each state will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds. The nearly month-long experience includes lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation; overnight camping trips into the Monogahela National Forest; and a visit to Washington D.C. Application forms are available on the NYSC website at www.nysc.org. The deadline for applications to arrive at ODE is February 15, 2013. Questions? Contact Cheryl Kleckner at cheryl.kleckner@state.or.us.

Nominate Outstanding Science & Math Teachers for the PAEMST

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a K-12 math or science teacher can receive. Anyone may nominate exceptional math or science teachers (grades 7-12) for the 2012-13 Award. Teachers may also apply directly at www.paemst.org. Elementary school teachers (grades K-6) are eligible to apply in 2013-14. The nomination deadline is April 1, 2013. The application deadline is May 1, 2013. For more about the PAEMST, visit www.paemst.org. Questions about the nomination or application process? Contact Cheryl Kleckner at cheryl.kleckner@state.or.us.

Speak Up. Work Safe.

High school students across Oregon are invited to enter the annual "Speak up. Work Safe." video contest. This contest engages teens in developing a safety message aimed at their peers. Teens have used special effects, humorous story lines, and creative characters to promote young worker safety and health in past videos. The top three entries will take home cash prizes ranging from \$300 to \$500 and students will earn a matching amount for their school. For more information, check out the O[yes] website: <http://youngemployeesafety.org/feature/video-contest-is-back/>

Missing Children Poster Contest

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is conducting a national poster contest for fifth graders to bring greater awareness to the issue of missing children. The poster contest is designed to increase awareness about the danger of abduction and provide an opportunity for organizations to engage children and their parents in informative discussions on safety and prevention. The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home." Students are asked to design and draw a poster that reflects the theme and complete an application describing the importance of the theme. The winning poster from each state is submitted to OJJDP for selection of the national winner. Submissions are due by the end of February. Complete rules and poster contest resources can be found online at: <http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/poster-contest-resources/>.