



## From the Desk of Susan Castillo State Superintendent of Public Instruction

As you may know, Oregon has been involved in an exciting effort in standards development, the **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)**.

This state-led process is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), in partnership with Achieve, ACT, and the College Board. CCSSI's goal is to develop a common core of state standards in English language arts and mathematics.

The most recent draft of these standards is now available for public review, and an online survey (available at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)) has been developed to solicit feedback. Now it is time to ensure that these standards meet the needs and expectations of Oregon students, educators, parents, and other Oregon stakeholders.

### **Public comment on the draft K-12 standards ends April 2, 2010.**

In addition to the online CCSSI survey, Oregon's education service districts, the Instructional Leadership Council (ILC), the Educational Enterprise Steering Committee (EESC), and ODE have partnered to develop a regional strategy for gathering input on the K-12 common standards drafts.

Administrators and K-12 teachers from across the state are invited to attend **review sessions** for English and/or mathematics to be held at ESDs through the end of March. You can contact your ESD's School Improvement Director for details about participating in a review session. See page four of this issue for more information on the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Oregon has long been a leader in standards development. Your voice is important. I urge you to make every effort to respond to the survey available at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) and to help shape these historic standards.

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## ODE Continues Single Scoring of 4th and 7th Grade State Writing Assessments

Last year, in response to economic conditions, ODE made the decision to reduce the number of raters for writing tests at grades 4 and 7. Given continued budget constraints, the suspension of double scoring will remain in place for the 2009-10 school year.

ODE is committed to retaining the essential elements of the statewide writing assessments while reducing the number of raters used to score essays at grades 4 and 7. This temporary suspension of double scoring will be implemented using the following guiding principles:

- Papers that clearly meet or clearly do not meet the writing standard based on an initial reading by a qualified rater will only be scored once.
- Papers that would typically fall into the nearly meets category will be scored using the traditional double scoring process, including a possible third reading to resolve any discrepancies.
- High school papers will receive double scoring, as has been done in the past, and local districts will still have the option to appeal scores at this grade level if there are local ratings of the essay determining that the student's work meets the state standards.

Based on prior experience with the rating system where individual trait scores from two raters agree 95% of the time, we feel that the single ratings will provide an accurate portrayal of student writing and will help inform instruction. Districts will continue to be able to access their scores and use the data to make instructional decisions.

Reminder: 4th and 7th grade writing will not be used for AYP determination or the State Report Card.

## New Item Types Coming this Spring

After spring break, ODE will field test a new type of interactive, constructed response test item designed to assess different types of student knowledge that are typically not assessed using multiple choice questions. In addition, there will be field test multiple choice items with both 3 and 5 response options as opposed to the standard 4 answers. These items will be field tested starting **April 19, 2010**.

At most, each student will encounter one or two of these field test items per test. These items will replace current field test items and will not alter the length of the test. If students have used the practice test (see below) to gain familiarity with these new items, the length of time needed for testing should not be significantly impacted. As they are in field test, the results of these items will not count toward a student's score. Instead, the results will help ODE gain the information needed to prepare these items for inclusion in future operational tests.

A practice test is now available on the [OAKS Portal](https://oaksportal.ode.state.or.us) for these new item types. This test is not grade or subject specific. Instead, it provides examples of the types of questions students might encounter in their spring tests. Taking this practice test and gaining familiarity with these new item types is particularly important for the constructed response items which require students to manipulate elements on the screen to solve problems and demonstrate their understanding. As these items are unlike anything students have been exposed to in previous OAKS tests, ODE strongly recommends using the practice test with students to ensure they are familiar with these new items and are able to use them to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

**The practice test is available on the OAKS portal at: <https://oakspt.tds.airast.org/Student/Default.aspx>.**

## Who will be the 2010-11 Oregon Teacher of the Year?



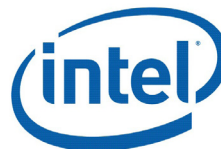
The Oregon Department of Education is now accepting nominations for the 2010-2011 Oregon Teacher of the Year. Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Oregon Teacher of the Year. However, a candidate cannot nominate him/herself. To nominate a teacher, go to the ODE website and fill out the "Talent Pool Recommendation" form at [www.ode.state.or.us/go/TOY](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/TOY). At the end of the talent pool recommendation, click the box to nominate the individual for the Oregon Teacher of the Year.

"The Oregon Teacher of the Year award honors a representative of all the great teachers in Oregon," Castillo said. "Candidates for Oregon Teacher of the Year should be exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled educators. They should inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn. They should have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues. Candidates should play an active role in the community as well as in school, and they should be poised and articulate representatives of all Oregon classroom teachers."

The selected teacher will continue to teach in his or her classroom and will have many opportunities to share his or her teaching strategies, best practices, and education experiences and expertise with audiences at the state level. The teacher will attend the National Teacher of the Year conference in Dallas, TX; the National Teacher of the Year Recognition Week in Washington, DC where her or she will meet the President at the White House; and International Space Camp at the US Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. The Oregon Teacher of the Year also becomes a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award.

A Blue Ribbon Panel consisting of legislators, former Teachers of the Year, business leaders, and key education organization leaders will select the finalists. The finalists will be interviewed by representatives of the State Superintendent's office. State Superintendent Susan Castillo will select the Oregon Teacher of the Year. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2010. The 2010-11 Oregon Teacher of the Year will be announced at the beginning of October.

Superintendent Castillo is especially proud that the Oregon Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by Intel Corporation, the state's largest private employer and a consistent supporter of education programs, particularly in math and science. Intel provides generous support to Oregon's 2009-10 Teacher of the Year, Donna DuBois.



## USDOE Funds Oregon's Test Fee Program Grant

ODE has received notice that the Test Fee Program grant for 2009-2010 AP and IB examinations for low-income students has been funded by the USDOE. Students that meet the eligibility criteria are qualified to have their exam fees paid in full.

### The College Board Offers a Pre-AP Workshop for Middle and High School Teachers

**Where:** Northwest Regional ESD, 5825 NE Ray Circle, Hillsboro, OR

**When:** Friday, April 23, 2010, 8:30am to 3:30pm.

**Registration:** Register at [https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/find\\_meeting.jsp](https://apps2.collegeboard.com/olrWebApp/find_meeting.jsp). \$175 for College Board member schools, \$200 non-member schools (All workshop materials, continuing education credits, breakfast, and lunch included)

- Pre-AP Strategies in Science: Inquiry-Based Labs
- Pre-AP: Strategies in English — Composition
- Pre-AP Strategies: AP Vertical Teams in History and the Social Sciences
- Pre-AP Strategies: AP Vertical Teams in World Languages and Cultures
- Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and the Social Sciences

Contact Andrea Morgan at [andrea.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:andrea.morgan@state.or.us) or 503.947.5772 for more information.

## Your Opinion Counts! Give Feedback on the English and Math Common Standards

The **K-12 grade-level common standards** for English language arts and mathematics that are part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2860>) were released for nation-wide review this month. Oregon educators are invited to provide feedback on the K-12 drafts for English and math at focus groups to be hosted by the ESDs and/or through participation in an online survey.

### Update on Common Standards project:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and 47 partner states have undertaken an extensive review of the first three drafts of the K-12 common standards for English and math, and have submitted comments in November 2009, January 2010, and February 2010.

### Provide Your Feedback :

You are invited to attend focus

groups for English and/or math to be held at ESDs in March. Focus groups specific to English and to math will review the K-12 common standards drafts and provide feedback to inform the next draft of each. Your voice is important! Please contact your ESD's School Improvement Director and let him/her know that you are interested in participating. You can also provide feedback on the common standards by taking the English language arts and/or the mathematics online survey. Respondents will be asked to comment by grade level on the challenge, clarity, and importance of each standard. The survey is available at: [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

### Background:

The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a joint effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School

Officers (CCSSO) in partnership with Achieve, ACT and the College Board, to develop a common core of state standards in English language arts and mathematics.

Currently, every state has its own set of academic standards. Common standards will create consistent expectations for students across all states and territories; helping to support students who transition between states while also preparing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed and compete globally.

Oregon was one of the first states to join in this process, participating in the review of the first draft of the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standards in July of 2009. Now the focus has shifted to developing the K-12 Grade-level Common Standards that will allow students to achieve the College and Career Readiness Standards.

## College Tax Credit Offers Bigger and Better Benefit

A new federal education benefit, the American Opportunity Credit, offers families and students more help in offsetting the cost of higher education expenses such as tuition, fees, course-related books, supplies, and equipment.

With the passage of President Obama's stimulus bill in 2009 (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), the American Opportunity Tax Credit enables a parent(s) or student to claim the tax credit and receive a refund check from the IRS, even if no income tax is owed.

The amount of the credit can be up to \$2,500 per eligible student and up to 40% or \$1,000 may be refundable.

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) has prepared a tip sheet on the American Tax Credit and how to claim it. **The tip sheet is available on the OSAC website at: [www.GetCollegeFunds.org/tipsheets.html](http://www.GetCollegeFunds.org/tipsheets.html).**

**The Oregon Student Assistance Commission provides a Tip Sheet on the American Opportunity Tax Credit and how to file for the credit and refund**

## Student Leadership and Civic Engagement through Philanthropy: A Service-Learning Tool for Teachers

### Community 101: Essential Skills Program

Community 101<sup>SM</sup>

Does your school's teaching and learning environment promote development of the Essential Skills that will help your students be ready for life after high school? Community 101, a student philanthropy program that is aligned with the Essential Skills, provides a tool for teachers that is not content-specific and can be applied across academic disciplines. Through Community 101, students demonstrate Essential Skills as they connect the classroom curriculum to current issues in their communities. Student learning becomes relevant as they award \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations and their school.

For the 2010-2011 year, The Oregon Community Foundation and the PGE Foundation are offering this unique program to 75 high schools. **Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2010.** The brief application involves school/teacher information, program information, a Letter of Interest, and recommendation from a principal or superintendent.

**To download the application, please visit:** <http://www.oregoncf.org/connect/developing-leaders/community-101>. Applicants will be notified in June 2010 and a program orientation will be given in September. For further information on the Community 101 alignment with Essential Skills and to download an application, please visit: [www.oregoncf.org/c101](http://www.oregoncf.org/c101). To view the Community 101 workbook, please visit: <http://www.oregoncf.org/connect/developing-leaders/community-101/C101-forms>. If you need further assistance, please contact Jenessa Datema, Youth Philanthropy Coordinator, [jdatema@oregoncf.org](mailto:jdatema@oregoncf.org); 503-552-3509 or Carol Reed, Community 101 Director, 503-464-7614 or [carol.reed@pgn.com](mailto:carol.reed@pgn.com)

## March 2010 State Board of Education Actions

At its March meeting, the State Board approved or adopted the following items:

- January 2010 minute
- Commissioner's Travel
- Administration of Prescription and Nonprescription Medication to Students; OAR 581-021-0037
- Student Appeals of Test Invalidations
- Supplemental Transportation Plan – Jefferson School District
- Supplemental Transportation Plan – Bend-La Pine School District
- Supplemental Transportation Plan – Lebanon School District
- Portland Village School Charter School Waiver Request (enrollment priority)
- Community College Program Approval:
- Administrative Office Professional (Statewide Associate of Applied Science Degree): Blue Mountain, Chemeketa, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia Gorge, Klamath, Lane, Linn-Benton, Mt. Hood, Portland, Southwestern Oregon, Tillamook Bay Community Colleges
- Basic Manufacturing Technician (Opt-in to Statewide Certificate of Completion): Mt. Hood Community College
- Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education (Associate of Applied Science Degree): Mt. Hood Community College
- Geographic Information Systems (Certificate of Completion): Portland Community College
- Test Development OAR 581-022-0620
- Math Achievement Level Descriptors, Assessment Development
- 2010 Calendar – Retreat Dates – confirmed adopted schedule without a vote
- Online Learning Work Plan (HB 3660) – approved work plan without a vote

## State 4-H Office Taking Applications for Scholarships to Middle-School Summer Science Camp

The State 4-H office is inviting Oregon middle school students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 to apply to attend the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp (EMBHSSC) this summer at Oregon State University. All selected campers will be fully funded by scholarships. Fifty-four students will be selected to attend this program, scheduled for August 2-13, 2010. Applications are particularly encouraged from youth who live in rural and/or underserved areas and members of populations traditionally underrepresented in science and technology fields.

**The deadline for application submissions is Friday, April 16.**



The application process involves completing an application form, writing a 250 word student essay, and recommendations from Science and Math teachers.

Information is available online at: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/summer-science-camp>. You can request a printed copy from Camp Coordinator Andy Hoffmann by calling 541-737-4081, or email [fourhscicamp@proaxis.com](mailto:fourhscicamp@proaxis.com).

The two-week residential camp offers youth innovative ways to enhance their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Leadership and citizenship are primary themes, and students are encouraged to stay in school. The full cost of the camp's education program, field trips, food and lodging is covered by a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation and The Bernard Harris Foundation.

## Student Logo Design Competition

The **My Future-My Choice** program is looking for a logo to be their new face. **My Future-My Choice** is an age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual education curriculum geared towards 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students that is delivered by peer educators and classroom teachers. The program focuses on the advantages of postponing sexual involvement and making healthy decisions and provides medically accurate information on the physical and emotional changes during adolescence.

**Awards include \$100, a t-shirt with your logo, and the possibility of your logo being used to represent My Future-My Choice statewide!**

Applicants must be between the ages of 11-24  
Submissions will be accepted through May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

For more information about the contest, including a link to the entry form, go to: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/teens/future/index.shtml>

## Summer Food Service Program 2009 Sunshine Award Winners

The 2009 USDA Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards recognize sponsors who show extraordinary efforts and achievements to encourage healthy living and improve nutrition in meals. Awards are also given to sponsors who serve challenging communities and those who increase participation through creative programs at meal sites.



Nominations are open to all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option sponsors. The following categories were offered for nomination for 2009:

1. Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites
2. Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption
3. Creating Appealing Meals and a Healthy Environment
4. Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities

Oregon had two winners in the category of Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities:

### Harney County School District in Burns, Oregon

Channon Rebeiro has used an innovative approach to meal service in Harney County by utilizing an old district van as a mobile feeding unit. Lunches are prepared and packed in coolers for delivery to rural sites in the county. Together with the site supervisor, Tammy Sandell, the van is loaded and meals are served at various sites. The parks and swimming pool where children congregate on hot summer days in this desert community are well situated to feed the children who expectantly wait in line for the food van to arrive. The side door of the van is opened to reveal the Justice for All poster and site rules in full view of the children waiting to receive their lunch. On the back of the van is a sign that reads, "follow me to the next summer food site."

For a small community that is spread out in this rural area, the act of delivering meals to places the children congregate has actively served the population. The elementary site has partnered with the local library to time the meal program to begin before a library program begins. The elementary site is a few blocks from the library and many colorful signs have been placed to notify the children and their parents of the partnership. There are boxes of books donated by the library which are handed out to the children at the elementary feeding site to encourage summer reading.

### Rainier School District



Rainier Summer Café in Rainier, Oregon, won for maximizing an Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force grant to better serve a rural community and school district that has 1,100 enrolled students. This summer, they used grant funds to serve meals to the parents who would bring their children to the summer food sites. This practice increased the number of children who participated in the SFSP. Rainier Summer Café also used the district swim program to conduct outreach and to promote the availability of program meals.

In addition to the Oregon winners above, the following programs were recognized for their commitment and efforts in the category of Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, Increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption:

- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Seaside, OR
- Scio School District, Scio, OR

## Assessment of Essential Skills Toolkit Ready for District and School Use

The Oregon Department of Education is pleased to announce the Assessment of Essential Skills Toolkit – a new web-based interactive planning system.



The Toolkit will help districts and high schools develop a local plan for assessing the essential skills by guiding them through a series of 10 Steps. After completing the steps in the Toolkit, each user may use the information to create a plan for their district.

Steps in the Toolkit include

- Step 1: Review Essential Skills Requirements
- Step 2: Establish Local Goals and Timelines
- Step 3: Survey Existing Resources
- Step 4: Plan for Special Needs Populations
- Step 5: Plan for Professional Development
- Step 6: Develop Support Structures
- Step 7: Develop a Local Assessment Plan
- Step 8: Develop Record-Keeping and Progress-Tracking Systems
- Step 9: Review Local Policies and Procedures
- Step 10: Review and Assemble Plans

This Toolkit consolidates a tremendous amount of district and ESD knowledge and resources in a single web site. It will continue to evolve as we add additional materials and functions which we hope will make the site more dynamic.



The Toolkit is available at <http://assessment.oregonk-12.net>.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Assessment of Essential Skills Coordinator [Barbara Wolfe](#), (503) 947-5845.

## New Assessment of Essential Skills Manager

After a long and thorough review process, the Office of Assessment and Information Services recently welcomed an Assessment of Essential Skills Design and Implementation Manager.

Derek Brown joined ODE from Eugene's Educational Policy Improvement Center where he most recently served as a Senior Lead Researcher. Derek's experience with data analysis, educational research, and policy will make him an excellent addition to our team.



In his new role with ODE, Derek is responsible for managing operations, policy administration, and implementation of the assessment of essential skills, including developing criteria for local assessment options that districts may use as part of their process for awarding a high school diploma.

Prior to joining the Education Policy Improvement Center, Derek served as a Youth Services manager for the Enterprise for Employment and Education. Previous experience also includes five years with the Air Force and three years as an Oregon teacher.

Derek Brown can be reached at: [Derek.Brown@state.or.us](mailto:Derek.Brown@state.or.us) or 503-947-5841.

## Hamersly Library Becomes the Viewing Site for Oregon State-Adopted Instructional Materials

In June 2009, the Oregon Department of Education entered into a partnership with Western Oregon University (WOU) Hamersly Library to become the official viewing site for Oregon State-Adopted Instructional Materials.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is required to provide a viewing site where all approved instructional materials are available for public review. ODE sought the relocation of materials from their viewing site in Salem due to a lack of space and staff.

WOU's Hamersly Library provides an ideal location as it currently holds adopted texts and an extensive curriculum collection. The collection includes state-adopted materials and other educational resources.

ODE's new partnership with WOU offers students as well as Oregon educators an accessible and organized collection that includes kits, manipulatives, electronic materials, and textbooks. All items are on public display and are searchable through the online library catalog.

ODE evaluates and adopts instructional materials by subject area in a seven year cycle. The subject area for the 2010 adoption is Mathematics 9-12 & Science K-12.

The State-Adopted Materials exhibit is located on the 2nd floor of Hamersly Library near the Curriculum Collection.

## National School Bus Safety Week - Annual Poster Contest

You're invited to participate in the 2010 OPTA Poster Contest, which focuses on school bus safety, and is linked with the National School Bus Safety Week. This year's theme is "**Be Aware – Know the Danger Zone!**"

The poster contest starts at the local level, with the help of the Oregon Department of Education notifying elementary school principals across the state. But school transportation operations across the state can also help promote this contest to schools we service by downloading the poster provided at <http://www.optaschoolbus.org/>.

Make sure you fill in the space on the poster with your local contact information and send them out to your elementary schools and give them to your bus drivers to promote entries.

**All Entries Must Be Postmarked By: April 16, 2010.** For a complete set of rules visit: <http://www.optaschoolbus.org>.

## Oregon Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference

The Oregon Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference will be at Rainier Jr. Sr. High School in Rainier, Oregon on **Saturday, April 10, 2010.**

This year's theme is Journey on the Columbia River. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Katy Barber, an Associate Professor of History at Portland State University. Dr. Barber teaches Pacific Northwest and Western U.S. History, as well as Public History courses. Additionally, she is the director of the Center for Columbia River History and is the author of several books and numerous articles.

For more information visit: <http://www.oregonsocialstudies.org/>



## Oregon Schools Making Strong Gains in Closing the Achievement Gap

On March 8, State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo named fifteen Oregon public schools that have made significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The announcement was made at a press conference at River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School in Eugene.



**Superintendent Castillo with students at the River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School announcement.**

"These schools all demonstrate the incredible power of strong leadership, quality instruction, and high expectations for all students," Castillo said. "They prove that it can be done – students can overcome poverty, cultural differences, and other challenges and succeed. My goal is to highlight examples of what is being accomplished in our public schools and send a very important message to all of Oregon about helping all children achieve."

The successful schools have certain common elements. A shared mission, vision and curriculum; a sharp focus on reading and math supported by opportunities for students to get the extra help they need; and a staff that believes their students are capable of success. Castillo initiated the Celebrating Student Success Award in 2005 to recognize leadership within

Oregon's K-12 public school system and highlight schools that have made significant progress toward closing the academic achievement gap. Special thanks go to the Portland Schools Foundation, whose work inspired these awards.

Each school named for the award has demonstrated significant improvement in student achievement for minority and/or low income students. This is the sixth year that Castillo has recognized schools for the Celebrating Student Success Awards. This year there are ten Champion Schools and five Continuing Success Schools. The Champion Schools will each receive a \$3,000 award and the Continuing Success Schools will each receive a \$1,000 award.

### **Congratulations to the 2010 Celebrating Student Success Schools!**

For more information on our award-winning schools go to: [www.ode.state.or.us/go/ctag](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/ctag).

### **2010 Celebrating Student Success Champion Schools:**

- \*Claggett Creek Middle School, Salem-Keizer School District
- \*East Elementary, Tillamook School District
- \*Lent Elementary School, Portland Public Schools
- \*Menlo Park Elementary School, David Douglas School District
- \*Molalla High School, Molalla River School District
- \*River Road/El Camino del Rio Elementary School, Eugene School District
- \*Talent Elementary School, Phoenix-Talent School District
- \*Vale Middle School, Vale School District
- \*Valor Middle School, Woodburn School District
- \*William Walker Elementary School, Beaverton School District

### **2010 Continuing Success Schools:**

- \*Boise-Eliot Elementary School, Portland Public Schools
- \*Bridgeport Elementary School, Tigard-Tualatin School District
- \*Davis Elementary, Reynolds School District
- \*Fleming Middle School, Three Rivers/Josephine County School District
- \*Merrill Elementary School, Klamath County School District

## Share Your Education Story - OEA Launches Video Contest

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) has launched its third annual "Working Wonders Video Contest," as part of OEA's continued effort to highlight the great work of Oregon educators and encourage school employees, students and community members to learn about and use multimedia tools to support public education.

This year, the contest will be divided into three categories:

**1. Doing More With Less – Creative Solutions in Hard Times** - *Oregon is experiencing challenging economic realities. How are you making ends meet in your classroom or school building?*

**2. Bridging the Diversity Divide – Cultural Competencies in Changing Schools** - *Our state's student demographics are shifting. How are you broadening student horizons or addressing the achievement gap?*

**3. Breaking the Mold – Innovations in Professional Practice** - *New and creative methods of teaching and learning are happening in mainstream public schools. Share your best work.*

Videos must feature an individual licensed teacher, support professional, or college instructor or a group of these staff members working in Oregon's

public schools and community colleges. The contest is open to submissions from the public.

Each category will be awarded a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, determined by popular vote from OEA members and the general public. Prize money (\$3,000/First place; \$1,500/Honorable Mention for each category) will be divided between the video creator, featured educator, and featured school or college. **Deadline for submissions is April 2, 2010.**

**For full contest rules, entry form, and helpful resources, go to: [www.oregoned.org/workingwonders](http://www.oregoned.org/workingwonders)**

## Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Certification Training Opportunities for School District Personnel

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a new rule, called the "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule."

Beginning April 2010, **any time painted surfaces are disturbed in "Child-Occupied Facilities" (where children under age 6 regularly spend time and built before 1978) the work must be done by a trained and certified "renovator."** See [MEMORANDUM NO. 009-2009-10 – Renovation Repair and Painting in Schools Rule](#) for more information.

The Oregon Schools Employees Association (OSEA) will facilitate several trainings this spring for school district personnel to receive their certification. EPA Certified Trainer Ed Gay will present the day-long RRP training at the following dates and locations:

- **March 23** Hood River High School 1220 Indian Creek Rd, Hood River
- **March 24** Umatilla/Morrow ESD 2001 SW Nye, Pendleton
- **March 30** OSEA-Plumbers/Pipefitters Training Facility 2161 SW 1st St, Redmond

- **April 2** N. Clackamas School District office, 4444 SE Lake Rd., Milwaukie
- **April 8** Corvallis School District office 1555 SW 35th St. Corvallis

**The deadline for training is April 22, 2010.**

Cost for the class is \$240.00 and lunch is provided. Districts are asked to contact their risk management office and/or insurance carrier to see if they will help fund the class. To register, call OSEA at 1-800-252-6732 or email [connie@osea.org](mailto:connie@osea.org).

## Kids and Gambling: The Hidden Problem

Kids are exposed to gambling every day. Turn on the TV and there's a poker tournament; walk into a mini-mart or grocery store and see lottery tickets; log onto a computer and find popup messages from gambling sites. Even churches and schools use gambling for fundraising, so the pro-gambling message is everywhere, and Oregon is among the top states in the nation for gambling opportunities.

Adolescent brains offer a perfect environment for gambling with their preference for high activity/low effort/high stimulation. Add to that the fact that parents and schools often aren't talking to kids about the risks, and you can see why there is concern. Too often we hear "Kids gambling too much? No way...if they were we'd know it;" yet data from the Oregon Healthy Teens survey and other research tell a very different story:

- Most Oregon adolescents (63 percent) have gambled; their preferred games include free Internet gambling-type games, cards (poker), sports bets, and games of personal skill (Volberg, 2008)
- One youth per classroom already has a (hidden) gambling problem (Volberg, 2008)
- Kids who gamble are twice as likely to engage in other risk behaviors, such as alcohol and drug use, fights, skipping school, etc. (OHT, 2008)

- Adolescents in families with parents who gamble are twice as likely to be an at-risk gambler and four times as likely to be a problem gambler (Volberg, 2008)
- The problem typically develops over several years. Without prevention efforts now, small problems can escalate into serious consequences down the line (Volberg, 2008)

### How parents and school staff can help:

Learn more about the issue – check out the excellent resources listed below and/or invite staff from the Problem Gambling Prevention program to speak at your staff meeting, conference, or in-service. We're available across the state.

Talk to kids about the potential risks of gambling—for some it becomes a true addiction, though harder to spot and easier to hide. Tips on what to say and how to say it are available at [www.problemgamblingprevention.org/parents.htm](http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/parents.htm)

Increase students' awareness of the risks of gambling by addressing it in health, social studies, math, and other classes. Students will really engage in discussions that include gambling, partly because it's a newer, fresher way to address risk and addiction than the drug and alcohol information they've heard so many times before.

Middle school: Show the free problem gambling awareness video developed by Oregon kids for Oregon kids; it covers the topic in 6 minutes with a humorous "mythbusters" theme. Free copies (DVD or VHS) and a facilitator guide are available at [www.problemgamblingprevention.org/educators.htm](http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/educators.htm).

High school: We have free, ready-to-use problem gambling awareness activities developed and classroom-tested by an Oregon high school health teacher. Go to [www.problemgamblingprevention.org/curricula/hs/hs-health-teen-gambling-awareness-hklb-pgs.pdf](http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org/curricula/hs/hs-health-teen-gambling-awareness-hklb-pgs.pdf)

If the idea of a casino night comes up for a school event or fundraiser, think about the message you're sending and consider using another theme. If not, at least balance the message by providing problem gambling information at the event—we have lots of free information available.

Ever seen a problem gambling poster in your school? No? We can fix that! We have great posters featuring youth art. Keep a stock of problem gambling brochures and posters on hand and disseminate them with your other educational materials—we are happy to provide them at no cost.

Summary: key points

1. Whether you see it or not, kids are gambling and many

## Kids and Gambling: The Hidden Problem (cont.)

teens already have gambling problems. Educate yourself and then talk to kids about the risks of gambling -- don't let the only messages they see be those coming from the gaming industry.

2. Gambling is not a safe alternative to alcohol or drug use. Youth who gamble have twice the risk of alcohol and drug use and other risk behaviors. More young people are developing problems with gambling and it can become addictive.
3. Kids who start gambling early are more likely to develop gambling problems. Honest education about gambling is important to preparing young people to make responsible choices.

### Resources

#### Problem Gambling Prevention:

Oregon Problem Gambling Prevention website: <http://www.problemgamblingprevention.org> provides a wealth of information and resources, including those mentioned in this article. Click on the following sections in the left side toolbar: AGE: Youth; Educators; Parents



Oregon Department of Human Services Problem Gambling Prevention Program Wendy Hausotter, Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator at 503-945-9703.

#### Problem Gambling Help and Treatment:

Oregon Problem Gambling Helpline - 1-877-MY-LIMIT for 24/7 help or information via phone or go to <http://www.1877mylimit.org> for chat/instant message/email; it's free, confidential and it works!

## Oregon DATA Project Training

More than 85 teachers and administrators from throughout Oregon recently completed three days of certification training with the Oregon DATA Project.

The training, which began February 22, prepares participants to teach the project's professional development courses on using data to help increase student achievement. During the intensive three-day course, educators reviewed key content areas and then practiced delivering the trainings. Certification was earned after a rigorous scoring procedure.

The sessions were conducted by trainers who completed the DATA Project's certification process last year. Participants—both trainers and trainees—came from ESDs and K-12 schools from throughout the state. Clackamas ESD hosted the event.

"K-12 and ESD participants from every corner of Oregon attended the certification training, building both capacity and sustainability of the Oregon DATA Project," says Mickey Garrison, the project's training director. "It was very well received and 40-plus participants already have reported using the strategies and techniques from the training in their job-related responsibilities."

In other Oregon DATA Project news, a face-to-face meeting for all 150 certified trainers in the state is scheduled for April 6 at Clackamas ESD. For more information, visit the Oregon DATA Project website, <http://www.oregondataproject.org/>, or email [Mickey Garrison](mailto:Mickey Garrison).

## New NAEP Reading Results Coming Soon

Results from the NAEP 2009 reading assessment will be released in late March or early April.

In preparation for this year's results, below are some highlights from the NAEP 2007 reading results:

### Oregon NAEP 2007 Results Summary

Grade 4 Reading NAEP Average Scale Score				Grade 8 Reading NAEP Average Scale Score			
Student Group	OR	U.S.	Dif.	Student Group	OR	U.S.	Dif.
All Students	215	220	↓	All Students	266	261	↑
Eligible for Free-Reduced Lunch	200	205	↓	Eligible for Free-Reduced Lunch	253	247	↑
Not Eligible for Free-Reduced Lunch	228	232	↓	Not Eligible for Free-Reduced Lunch	274	271	↑
Students with Disabilities	180	190	↓	Students with Disabilities	231	226	↔
Students without Disabilities	220	223	↓	Students without Disabilities	269	265	↑
English Language Learners	176	188	↓	English Language Learners	220	222	↔
Non English Language Learners	221	223	↔	Non English Language Learners	269	263	↑
Amer. Indian/Alaska Native Students	206	206	↔	Amer. Indian/Alaska Native Students	260	248	↑
Asian/Pacific Islander Students	218	231	↔	Asian/Pacific Islander Students	270	269	↔
Black Students	198	203	↔	Black Students	250	244	↔
Hispanic Students	190	204	↓	Hispanic Students	243	246	↔
White Students	222	230	↓	White Students	270	270	↔
<b>Achievement Levels</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Dif.</b>	<b>Achievement Levels</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>Dif.</b>
% at or above Basic	62%	66%	↓	% at or above Basic	77%	73%	↑
% at or above Proficient	28%	32%	↓	% at or above Proficient	34%	29%	↑

Legend

- ↑ Oregon results are higher than the nation's, based on statistical significance test
- ↓ Oregon results are lower than the nation's, based on statistical significance test
- ↔ Oregon results are not statistically different than the nation's



NAEP is the only assessment that allows us to compare the scores of Oregon's 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the scores of their peers in all 50 states and the nation as a whole. NAEP also helps us to identify achievement gaps between groups of students and to compare the size of those gaps to the national gaps.

For further information, contact NAEP State Coordinator [Beth LaDuca](#), (503) 947-5836.

## Healthy Kids

Children without health coverage are far less likely to get the health care they need when they need it. Uninsured children are also more likely to miss school or end up seeking expensive treatment in an emergency room rather than regular preventive care in a doctor's office. Fortunately, thanks to the new Oregon Healthy Kids program, quality health coverage is something all Oregon families can now get for their children.

Healthy Kids was passed by the legislature during the 2009 session and has been implemented in phases over the last six months. The first phase expanded no-cost coverage through the Oregon Health Plan to children in families earning up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (or about \$44,100 a year for a family of four). Earlier this month, the final phase of this historic expansion went into effect as Healthy Kids began providing coverage to moderate and middle-income families through Healthy KidsConnect.

KidsConnect coverage is sponsored by the state but coverage is provided through private health insurance carriers. Healthy KidsConnect is a public-private buy-in program for families between 200% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, or up to about \$66,000 a year for a family of four. Families above the income limit are able to buy in to the program at full cost. Coverage provided through KidsConnect is just as comprehensive as the no-cost coverage through the Oregon Health Plan. And in nearly every part of the state, families will have the choice of a statewide carrier – PacificSource – or a regional carrier.

Governor Kulongoski recently celebrated the opening of KidsConnect with families and health care advocates where he said that parents of uninsured children can “now feel more secure knowing that their children will get the health care they need, when they need it.”

Monthly premiums for KidsConnect range from \$22 to \$83 depending on family income and how many children are covered. Through January 2010, over 35,000 more children have been enrolled in Healthy Kids. The opening of Healthy KidsConnect means thousands more will have access to quality coverage at rates their parents can afford. The Office of Healthy Kids expects to enroll a total of 80,000 more children by the end of this year.

Families don't need to know where they fall on the income spectrum to apply. Any family with uninsured Oregon children is encouraged to apply today! The Healthy Kids application and more information is available on the website [www.oregonhealthykids.gov](http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov) or by calling 1-877-314-5678.

The Office of Healthy Kids is committed to doing whatever it takes to make sure all Oregon children have health coverage. Free brochures, posters, and fliers to distribute to schools are available on the website. Healthy Kids also has a new Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member please become a “fan” of Healthy Kids and help spread the word. Click on the following link or search for “Oregon Healthy Kids” in Facebook.: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-Healthy-Kids/143567642535>

***“We can't stop until we have finished the job and reached our goal of enrolling 80,000 children by the end of the year. The health of our children and the future of our state depend on our success,” said Governor Kulongoski.***

## Applications for Funds - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Public Notice and Comment Periods

IDEA is a federal law governing special education services and federal funding for eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities across the country.

In Oregon, federal IDEA funds help support the education of almost 83,000 children with disabilities. Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B. Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth-2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C.

Oregon's annual applications for federal IDEA funds will be open for public review for sixty days, beginning **Tuesday, March 2, 2010** and ending **Friday, April 23, 2010**. ODE will accept public comment on these applications for thirty days, beginning **Thursday, March 25, 2010** and ending **Friday, April 23, 2010**.

Find application copies and directions for submitting comments at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=260>

## Commodity Ordering and Distribution

### April 2010 distribution of commodities:

- o Place orders and assign them to a delivery location March 10-14.
- o Place orders for "No Charge to Entitlement Commodities" from March 15 at 9:00 AM until March 16 at 11:59 PM.

This is your last opportunity to order commodities for SY 2009-10.

Order commodities in CNPweb at: <https://cnp.ode.state.or.us>

Ordering instructions and other commodity information is available at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/services/nutrition/cfdp>

Contact: [Beverly Hassell](#), 503-947-5896 or [David Jones](#), 503-947-5912.

## Links to OSD Newsletter

Oregon School for the Deaf: [OSD Family Newsletter](#)

The Oregon School for the Deaf was established in 1870 to provide educational services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The school is operated by the Oregon Department of Education.

## Numbered Memoranda Overview

DATE	MEMO NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
March 3	<a href="#">011-2009-10</a>	High School Grade for Federal Accountability

Click [here](#) to see a complete list of numbered memoranda.

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please contact [Susanne Smith](#), 503-947-5637.