

## **Hood River County SD**

**Funded amount \$425,000**

HRCSD has re-designed Project ExCEL in an effort to meet the changed needs of students and families at four Title IA schools: three elementary (Cascade Lock, Parkdale, Mid Valley) and Wy'East Middle in Hood River County. HRCSD is deepening coordination between school-day and after-school staff, including new partners with expanded programs that engage students and families in culturally affirming ways, utilizing new resources in HRCSD like new curricula, launching new advisory teams that include parents in program design and reducing barriers to the program. All of this will increase equity-driven enrichment opportunities that provide equitable access to safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments for students not reaching benchmark.

Because ExCEL is operated by HRCSD, it will seamlessly connect after-school activities to school-day lessons through regular cross-program reviews. ExCEL will also enhance community partnerships to expand student-centered enrichment, youth development, and parent engagement through culturally appropriate and culturally affirming activities such as art, robotics, and outdoor learning.

The enhanced ExCEL Project will result in more students from focal groups achieving academic benchmarks and developing more social emotional skills; more parents/families will engage in their child's education, and ultimately these students will thrive both inside and outside of the education system.