

APPENDIX K: SUPPORTING SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Oregon Department of Education acknowledges and understands that two-thirds of districts in the state are small and rural. Small and rural school districts have unique contexts and, as such, specific support has been put in place in this Integrated Guidance Update. Using feedback from small and rural district leaders, the following accommodations have been made to support small and rural districts with an ADMw of 1650 and fewer. This effort intentionally supports ODEs commitment to align and coordinate processes using a small district lens.

SUPPORTING OREGON'S DISTRICTS WITH 1650 ADMW OR FEWER

Funding from the state has been allocated to sustain the small and rural district support with the intent to provide additional resources and assistance for the programs within this guidance and the other 145 ODE programs.

- **Differentiation of application:** Differentiated application templates corresponding with the Intent to Apply.
- **Application template:** ODE will pre-populate some of the repeated application questions from the previous biennium.
- **Additional resources and assistance:** Each ESD receives additional funding resources to provide additional technical assistance for districts with 1650 ADMw and fewer, including but not limited to the programs within this guidance.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OREGON'S DISTRICTS WITH 80 ADMR OR FEWER

As in the previous biennium, districts with 80 ADMr or fewer, will have additional accommodations to those listed above, which include:

- Release from setting Longitudinal Performance Growth Targets (LPGTs).
- The number of artifacts required to show evidence of quality engagement are **reduced from five to two** (must demonstrate two different strategies).
- Encouragement for smaller districts in the same region to work in consortia.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SMALL DISTRICTS

Small and rural school districts are often the center of the community, and students attending these schools face unique challenges but also have unique opportunities. In some of Oregon's regions, school districts in remote areas are, in fact, the community. It is because of this context that small and rural school districts have constant and consistent community engagement. ODE encourages small and rural districts to capitalize on their unique contexts and strengths in thinking about how to use existing structures where community engagement organically occurs and how that intersects with the integrated application. Small and rural districts have deep relationships with their families and communities, which facilitates and supports authentic community engagement. Examples of this might include: music programs, graduations, CTE events, FFA plant sales, sporting events, field trips, and end of year staff celebrations.