

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – TOPIC SUMMARY**

**Topic:** National Association of School Boards in Education (NASBE) grant to assist with addressing Disparate School Discipline practices

**Date:** May 6, 2014

**Staff/Office:** Emily Nazarov, Board Staff

**Action Requested:**  Informational  Adoption Later  Adoption  Adoption/Consent Agenda

**ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Commitment by the State School Board to support the work of ODE in implementing the NASBE Safe and Healthy Schools grant.

**BACKGROUND:**

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) sought out applicants for a Safe and Healthy Schools grant opportunity. The project, Examining and Reforming State Disciplinary Policies from a State-Level Perspective, is designed to further NASBE’s organizational mission to serve and strengthen state boards of education in their pursuit of high levels of academic achievement for all students. The purpose of the grant is to 1) accelerate the adoption of state policies that limit the use of suspension, expulsion and criminalization of students; 2) promote policies that improve education outcomes; and 3) encourage the use of positive discipline and climate-building practices.

Oregon applied for and has subsequently received the grant. ODE’s goal is to specifically focus on Discriminatory Discipline and Disparate Impact. Through the grant, ODE plans to provide professional development for select districts to implement pilot Restorative Justice Practices (RJP) in an attempt to reduce exclusionary discipline practices and eliminate disproportionate practices with marginalized students. The grant supports the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in developing a model plan for assisting districts and schools to identify, prevent, and address discriminatory discipline to better the educational opportunities for all students.

ODE intends to combine the work of the grant with the work currently being conducted by the Oregon School Discipline Advisory Committee (OSDAC). OSDAC’s work is focused on formulating policy recommendations that will increase the use of positive school discipline practices and developing a school discipline best practices manual to provide guidance and procedures for school districts that promote positive school climate and culture.

**BOARD ACTION:**

To meet the requirements of the grant, the Oregon State Board is committing to support the work of ODE in implementing the grant and is assuring the following:

The Board is committed to reducing the use of suspension and expulsion and eliminating disproportionate discipline practices through policies that promote prevention and a positive school climate/learning environment.

The Board authorizes member Charles Martinez to act as its liaison to work with ODE and SDAC in carrying out the requirements of the NASBE grant.