



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

*Oregon achieves . . . together!*

**Colt Gill**

Director of the Department of Education

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Providing equitable access to an excellent education to each and every child is a moral imperative and, as educators, it is a responsibility we must own and embrace. It calls for professionals, leaders of all walks of life, families, and communities to find shared understanding, time, and the will to mobilize on a daily basis and to surround young people with the love, care, nourishment, intellectual challenges, and connection they need to thrive.

Despite the many challenges of the last few years, I know how dedicated thousands of Oregonians are to this daily effort and to the vision of what is possible if we can find ways to move even more powerfully together.

This document reflects hope going forward.

Guidance is a technical word which describes how a state agency explains, coordinates, and administers the programs that have been passed into law by the legislature or federal government and into administrative rules through the State Board of Education.

This guidance accomplishes those aims while also aligning six separate federal and state programs that belong beside each other to the point that they could be experienced by students, educators, and communities as a single, comprehensive effort.

What our staff at ODE has set out to do, with noted hope from the legislature and the education field, is to *operationally* align investments and work that can indeed bring increased success for students and lay the groundwork for us to see the full value and desired impact of the investments in the Student Success Act passed in 2019.

Schools hold responsibility for student mental health and wellbeing in the ways they design and approach relationship-centered schools focused on belonging, school climate, identity, and instruction. There should not be any separation in social, emotional, and academic learning.

This guidance offers district and school leaders the information and tools needed to engage community, assess needs, plan well, and implement programs that provide a needed 10% boost (approximately) over Oregon's base state school fund. These additional funds carry promise that shape and support strategies and planning with a more substantial scale and impact than was possible in Oregon just a few years ago. These investments move us closer to the funding levels called for in Oregon's Quality Education Model than at any previous time in Oregon's

history. We need that now. We need a way for communities, young people, educators, health professionals, and school leaders to listen, reset, and find the best ways to move forward.

I personally hope we can celebrate this long-needed alignment and what I see as a first big step towards a new horizon for Oregon's schools and students.

Sincerely,



Colt Gill  
Director of the Oregon Department of Education and  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction