



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



Organization

Backbone Organization: Malheur ESD
Counties in Region: Malheur
Sq. Miles in Region: 9,930
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By the Numbers

School Districts	10
Students	5,261
Educators Participating in PD	222
Educator Hours in PD	871
Students Participated in Programs	6,194
Hours of Programming Offered	791
Student Hours in STEM Programs	20,315

Collective Impact Through Cross-Sector Partnership

Frontier STEM Hub's Built Environment Career Pathways project demonstrates strategic collective impact that addresses community-identified needs. Developed in response to priorities from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 2023 community listening sessions, this initiative united diverse partners around shared goals. The three-day overnight camp for 8th and 9th grade students, coupled with a family workshop, brought together stakeholders who might not otherwise collaborate: DEQ's Built Environment Team, Treasure Valley Community College, Malheur County Building Inspectors, OSU Extension, and Euvalcree. Each partner contributed unique expertise—TVCC provided hands-on college experiences and apprenticeship connections, county inspectors offered real-world construction career perspectives, OSU Extension linked agricultural and environmental management, Euvalcree ensured culturally responsive engagement, and DEQ brought statewide resources to our rural region.

Rather than working in isolation, this collective approach multiplied impact. Students gained exposure to careers in sustainable construction, materials management, environmental quality, and skilled trades while strengthening Oregon Employability Skills. Families received tools and financial aid guidance to support career exploration. This partnership exemplifies Frontier STEM Hub's role as regional connector—coordinating diverse stakeholders around shared outcomes no single entity could achieve alone, expanding career-connected learning opportunities for Malheur County's underserved youth.

Building Community Through Math Rural Learning Collaboratives

In rural Malheur County, math teachers often work in isolation, lacking the peer support and collaborative planning time available in larger districts. Frontier STEM Hub addresses this challenge by partnering with the Eastern Oregon Regional Educators Network (EOREN) and Central Oregon STEM Hub to facilitate Math Rural Learning Collaboratives.

The Rural Learning Collaborative connects educators across Eastern Oregon's vast geography through weekly 45-minute Zoom sessions and periodic in-person gatherings. K-8 math teachers collaborate to identify essential skills within standards, build streamlined quality assessments, and share proven student success strategies. Teachers experiment with innovative approaches in their classrooms, then share results with the team as well as celebrate successes and problem-solve challenges together. This produces laser-focused instruction with significantly reduced prep time, leveraging collective wisdom rather than working in isolation.

The impacts are substantial: teachers report improved student learning and better benchmark scores. Beyond data, participating educators describe their team as a community that understands daily teaching realities and shares ownership in each other's students. In one of Oregon's most geographically isolated regions, these partnerships ensure no math teacher works alone, and every student benefits from collective educator expertise.



Connecting Youth Talent with Regional Workforce Needs

As a rural frontier region, Malheur County faces limited career access for students and skilled employee shortages for industry. Frontier STEM Hub addresses these challenges through strategic Career Connected Learning initiatives connecting youth education with industry talent demands.

Destination Dream Job serves over 60 middle school students annually through a four-day intensive career camp. In partnership with TVCC, CTE, OSU Extension, and local employers, students explore 10+ career pathways through hands-on experiences in construction, automotive, entrepreneurship, healthcare, and agriculture. Using YouScience Aptitude data, the program connects youth with careers aligned to their natural strengths before high school pathway decisions begin.

The Malheur Works Internship Program recently completed its fifth cohort, serving 28 recent high school graduates with 360 hours of paid work experience. This nine-week program places interns with local employers across healthcare, government, education, and business sectors while providing weekly professional development workshops focused on Oregon Employability Skills. This three-pillar approach—work experience, skill development, and mentorship—equips students with essential technical and soft skills for collegiate or professional success. [2025 Malheur Works Video](#)