



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



Organization

Backbone Organization: Southern Oregon ESD
Counties in Region: Klamath, Josephine, & Jackson
Sq. Miles in Region: 10,580
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By the Numbers

School Districts	13
Students	48,126
Educators Participating in PD	221
Educator Hours in PD	2,464
Students Participated in Programs	12,205
Hours of Programming Offered	1,478
Student Hours in STEM Programs	90,195

Collective Impact in Action: Growing STEM and CTE Pathways



In response to requests from education and industry advisors for more systemwide training in career connected learning and dedicated time for collaborative problem-solving around employability, Southern Oregon STEM partnered with NIC Industries to host a June convening (see [NIC Linked In post](#)). In November of 2025, the Southern Oregon STEM in collaboration with YouScience, delivered [a Future FWD event](#) highlighting the collective impact work underway in Klamath County. This work is helping students graduate with

confidence and pursue post-secondary education and careers with genuine excitement. Check out this [video](#) featuring a recent Henley High School graduate; this year, 75 students are enrolled in the Klamath CTE Center for Health Sciences and are on track to share similar success stories. Stay tuned for more updates as the Rogue Valley prepares to launch its own CTE Center. Continued collective impact and cross-regional partnerships in both the Rogue Valley and Klamath Basin are strengthening systems and expanding opportunities for STEM and CTE programs across the region.



Ambitious Teaching Practices: Breaking Down Barriers to Math Learning

Southern Oregon STEM Hub facilitated a transformative professional development cohort focused on Ambitious Teaching Practices, serving educators from 18 schools across Oregon. The program targeted 6th through 10th grade teachers, providing practical tools and dedicated practice time to help break down learning barriers and ensure every student engages meaningfully with mathematics.

In partnership with Teachers Development Group, the cohort delivered in-person workshops across different regions, bringing high-quality professional learning directly to educators in their communities.

A key component of the program involved teachers opening their classrooms to colleagues, modeling ambitious teaching practices in action and demonstrating how these strategies translate into everyday instruction.

The impact on classroom practice has been significant. One participant reflected on immediate implementation: "I have already started some of these ideas in my classroom this year. I found that the noticing and wondering is my favorite way to break down barriers and provide access to the math concepts and ideas. I do this more regularly and have students turn and talk with their table mates and then share their ideas. This has created more engagement and increased understanding."

Through this cohort, Southern Oregon STEM Hub continues building educator capacity to create more inclusive, engaging mathematics classrooms where all students can access rigorous content and develop deep mathematical understanding.



Eco-Explorers: Connecting Sustainability Careers with Classroom Learning

Southern Oregon STEM Hub launched year two of [Eco-Explorers](#) in the Rogue Valley and expanded the program to the Klamath Basin. This innovative initiative supports 3rd through 8th grade teachers from Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath Counties by partnering them with industry and community professionals whose work centers on sustainability.

Through collaborative planning sessions, educators and industry partners design hands-on classroom projects that align with Next Generation Science Standards, address community needs, and provide authentic career exposure. By connecting classroom learning with real-world applications, students develop awareness and interest matching their aptitudes in preparation for post-secondary education and career planning.

Teachers apply for mini-grants to implement projects with their students and communities. Recent projects include studying the Klamath Dam restoration, exploring fish and wildlife management, investigating fire ecology and forestry practices, and more. Educators were also introduced to [career journeys videos](#) featuring diverse Oregon professionals in sustainability fields.



Nearly 9,000 students gaining exposure to career pathways aligned with their aptitudes and interests shows that Southern Oregon has talent in a variety of sectors (results seen [here](#)). By bridging classroom instruction with community-based projects and industry partnerships, Eco-Explorers ensures students throughout Southern Oregon develop both the knowledge and inspiration to pursue meaningful careers in sustainability and environmental stewardship.