



QUALITY EDUCATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

8:00AM - 10:00AM

HYBRID: MS TEAMS OR IN PERSON AT OREGON PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

Commission Members: *Tricia Mooney (Chair), Manuel Vazquez-Cano, Cam Preus, Reed Scott-Schwalbach, Dana Hepper, Karinn Calhoun, Laurie Danzuka, Evan Fuller (Staff), Candice Castillo (Staff), Andrea Lockard (Staff), Leah Thorp (Staff)*

Meeting Scribe: *Mariah Robillard*

Introductions

Chair Mooney facilitated introductions with Commissioners.

ODE Updates

Dr. Candice Castillo, ODE's Deputy Director of Academics, shared an update that Dr. Dan Farley is no longer working at the agency and Dr. Andrea Lockard will be serving as interim support to the QEC at this time. Dr. Castillo gave a brief introduction of Dr. Lockard and her role. Andrea introduced herself to the QEC and shared an update on her work with SB 141 and the interim assessment transitions, noting that there would be in-person virtual vendor demonstrations coming up and communications would be going out to the public within the next couple of days.

Leah Thorp, in ODE's Office of Research, Assessment, Data, Accountability and Reporting, will be assisting in writing the QEM report. They shared a copy of the 2024 QEM Report in a Google Doc ([linked here](#)) for Commissioners to review and add comments to.

Oregon Funding Streams

Chair Mooney introduced Amber Forster and Mike Wiltfong, with ODE's Office of Finance, to share a presentation about the different ways that education is funded in Oregon.

There was a Q&A with Commissioners following the presentation, primarily about funding around grant resources. Dr. Charlene Williams, ODE's Agency Director, joined for a portion of the meeting and discussed a unified grant application that would be launching soon which would make it easier for districts to apply for grants by consolidating them.

QEM Report

Chair Mooney addressed the draft bill that was in committee that would have eliminated the QEC and noted that this bill did not pass. Due to this, the QEM Report is still due by August 1, 2026. There was a discussion about the structure of the report and Chair Mooney

recommended that the focus be on specifically the dollar amount and expected outcomes. Dr. Williams noted that she could assist in setting up initial conversations with the JPEA regarding the change in the length of the report that this would result in.

Best Practices Survey

Evan Fuller gave a brief update that the Best Practices Survey has closed and approximately 400 responses were received. He noted that the responses would be put into a document and be available to Commissioners by the next meeting in April. Evan also shared that he was in the process of working on and finalizing the white papers and they would be circulated with Commissioners as soon as they were finished.

Wrap Up

Chair Mooney concluded and adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (Hybrid: MS Teams or In Person at Oregon Public Services Building)