



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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**Annual Report to the Governor and the Commission on Indian Services
Oregon Department of Education
Activities of the Agency under ORS 182.162 to 182.168.**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) provides the following information related to actions of the state agency in developing and implementing programs in collaboration with Oregon Tribal governments.

(a) The policy the state agency adopted under ORS 182.164.

ODE policy for Section 2, SB 770

- a. The Tribal Liaison of the ODE is designated as the person responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect Tribes.
- b. Through interagency collaboration, ODE Leadership, including ODE directors, will be instructed on how to identify programs that may/can affect Tribes and to report all such programs to the Tribal Liaison for review.
- c. Tribal Liaison reports directly to the Deputy Superintendent and to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to keep the ODE leadership informed on issues related to tribes in the state. This includes serving as liaison to the governor's office on these matters.
- d. Through interagency collaboration and communication, the ODE maintains active electronic networks for state-wide communication with various groups on tribal issues and maintains active electronic, telephonic and direct communication between the Tribes and ODE.
- e. The Tribal Liaison attends Government-to-Government Education Cluster meetings, Government-to-Government Governor's Summit meetings, Provisions of ORS 182.162 to 182.168 are reviewed annually with ODE staff.
- f. The Tribal Liaison provides oversight to implementation of the ODE American Indian/Alaskan Native Education State Plan.

(b) The names of the individuals in the ODE who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes.

The Tribal Liaison at the ODE is Steve Woodcock who has responsibility for developing and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribe. Mr. Woodcock works collaboratively with the Deputy Superintendent in identifying and implementing programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

(c) The process the state agency established to identify the programs of the state agency that affect tribes.

The ODE identifies programs that affect tribes in multiple ways:

- The ODE produces and reports publically all academic achievement data and other performance indicators of schools' ability to serve the educational needs of Native American students.
- The ODE produces an analysis on each individual school and school district as mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act* and by Oregon Revised Statutes on the success of the school and district in improving the academic success of Native American students.
- The ODE requires school districts to develop Comprehensive Improvement Plans to address any deficiencies noted under either state or federal law. Monitoring includes corrective action plans for districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories that is the result of inappropriate identification.
- The ODE maintains an Office of Civil Rights that gathers information and investigates complaints of any civil rights violations that impact Native American students.
- The ODE regularly reviews the state content standards for inclusion of content that promotes understanding of Native American history at the national and state level.
- The ODE maintains a support role with local school districts to assist with the implementation of the federal Title VII Indian Education programs.
- The ODE maintains active participation with various advocacy groups that are concerned with Indian Education issues.

(d) The efforts of the state agency to promote communication between the state agency and tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes.

- The ODE promotes active Tribal contact and communication through the Tribal Liaison. The Tribal Liaison meets at least quarterly with the Education Cluster of the Government-to-Government process to create and monitor an annual work plan; to exchange information on issues impacting tribes and schools; to review and establish policy positions on issues impacting the tribes; to receive questions and requests for data, research and information; to maintain active communication with all aspects of the educational enterprise including the department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, the Oregon University System, and the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission. In addition, ODE attends and participates in the Governor's Annual Native American Summit. While the ODE values the important work of Government-to-Government, ODE also works with other groups that impact the education of all American Indian/Native Alaskan students. The ODE through the Tribal Liaison, participates at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Oregon Indian Education Association (OIEA). The ODE is supportive of the annual conference of the OIEA and the State Superintendent Susan Castillo participated at the 2009 OIEA Conference held at Lewis & Clarke College.

(e) A description of the training required by subsection (1) of this section.

The entire ODE staff, at the specific direction of State Superintendent Susan Castillo, has been engaged in an agency-wide process of study, reflection and action planning on developing and

implementing an agency focus on issues of equity of student outcomes and meeting the needs of all students, including the unique needs of Native American youth and families. The Management Team of ODE has operationalized this directive by establishing a study team that reads and discusses research on improving student performance of all students with particular attention to closing the achievement gap and exposing more students to more rigorous curriculum content. This group advises the State Superintendent on steps to be taken for improvement within ODE. Each Assistant Superintendent has been charged with implementing an analysis of their unit and identification of ways the unit can promote greater exposure of students to rigorous content, instructional improvement and collaboration both within ODE and with school districts.

On January 8, 2009, all ODE staff participated in a training with the State Superintendent on understanding the challenge of reaching equitable student outcomes and the need for the entire agency to develop focus and target its energy in this area. The Superintendent presented a detailed presentation and led an agency-wide conversation on the challenges the agency faces in improving educational attainment for all students. In addition to the training, ODE has maintained ongoing reading and study groups with the intent of identifying specific strategies for targeting these issues within ODE operations and identifying changes to ODE operations that will contribute to rigorous standards, improved instruction and effective collaboration.

One effort, supported by Governor Ted Kulongoski and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo, to address equity of student outcomes is to compete for Race to the Top education grants. The Race to the Top Fund provides competitive grants for states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; implementing ambitious plans in the four education reform areas described in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act); and achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring that students are prepared for success in college and careers.

An online, interactive process is being established to allow staff to share research findings and to exchange views on readings related to issues of equity, improvement of teaching and learning and improving student performance.

The ODE highly values its relationship with Oregon tribal governments and its participation in the Government-to-Government process. We look forward to continuing this important work.

Respectfully Submitted:

Steve Woodcock
Native American Education Specialist