



THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

EQUITY, EMPATHY, AND STUDENT VOICE: DAVID DOUGLAS SHOWS WHAT'S RIGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS

Open any newspaper, click on any headline— it's easy to feel overwhelmed by what's broken. But in classrooms and libraries across David Douglas, something different is happening. Students are leading real conversations—about safety, belonging, and what it means to build a school where everyone feels seen.

These stories don't often make the news. These are the kinds of stories Oregon Strong was created to uplift: real examples of hope, courage, and community, led by those who live it every day. For June's exploration, we visited Gilbert Park Elementary and Ron Russell Middle schools to learn from their student equity groups.



What's clear is that in David Douglas, student voice isn't just a checkbox for inclusion—it's a powerful tool for intergenerational learning. When we visited the student equity group at Gilbert Park Elementary, we expected a glimpse into how kids think about school.

What we heard were thoughtful, layered conversations about advocacy, allyship, microaggressions, and confidence—led by fifth graders. They spoke with clarity, took turns listening and learning from one another, and modeled a kind of dialogue many adults struggle to maintain.

At the middle school, that leadership only deepened. Students are setting goals, leading schoolwide equity initiatives, and creating a culture that calls people in rather than pushing them out. In a time marked by division, these students offer a vision of what's possible— a future built on respect, voice, and community.

As we head into summer, let this be a reminder that the next generation is already leading with heart and courage—and through stories like these, Oregon Strong keeps showing us that hope is real, and we're stronger when we build together.



CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP ACROSS OREGON

As we close out another school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary leadership happening across Oregon in every corner of our state. From those who hold formal leadership roles on COSA's Executive Committees to those doing the work each day to improve the lives of students—your dedication does not go unnoticed.

A special thank you to our 2024–25 COSA Presidents who have served with integrity and heart: **Dr. Majalise Tolan** (Lincoln County SD), COSA President; **Dr. Alisha McBride** (Vale SD), OASE President; **Vanessa Jones** (Grants Pass SD), OACOA President; **Christy Hartford** (Neah-Kah-Nie SD), OASSA President; **Tobey Huddleston** (Ontario SD), OESPA President; and **Dr. Joseph Hattrick** (Ashland SD), Equity Board President. Each of these individuals has given their time, energy, and vision to elevate the profession, advocate for Oregon's students and strengthen COSA's leadership role.

We also extend our deepest congratulations to the outstanding educators who will be recognized with COSA's prestigious statewide awards at our Annual Seaside Conference in June. Among them: **Dr. Ryan Noss** (Corvallis SD), Superintendent of the Year; **Sabrina Alexander** (Corvallis SD), Central Office Administrator of the Year; **Erik Lathen** (Illinois Valley HS), High School Principal of the Year; **Grant Piros** (Meadow Park MS), Assistant Principal of the Year; **Randy Dalton** (Molalla River MS), Middle School Principal of the Year; **Kara Davidson** (Coos Bay SD), Elementary Principal of the Year; and **Carmen Urbina** (Eugene SD), recipient of The Lau Leadership Award. We also honor our OSSA award recipients: **Dave McGrath** (Oakridge SD), Superintendent of the Year; and **Michelle Eagleson** (Vernonia SD), Principal of the Year. And we are proud to present the Jerry Colonna Lifetime Achievement Award to **Christy Perry**, retired superintendent, and the Colt Gill Leadership Award to **Heidi Sipe** (Umatilla SD).

Please join us in **[Seaside, June 16–18](#)**, to celebrate these incredible leaders and take time to reflect, recharge, and prepare for the road ahead.

In Leadership,
Krista

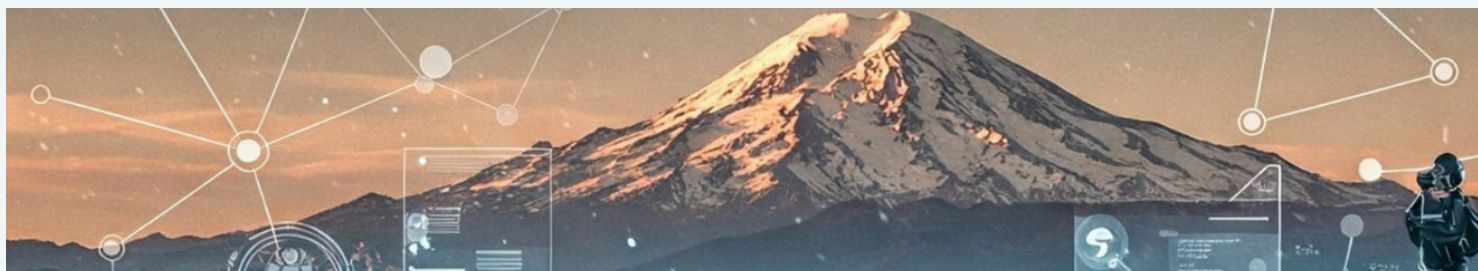
WAVES OF CHANGE: LEADING SCHOOLS WITH COURAGE

June 16-18

Join fellow education leaders at the 2025 Annual COSA Seaside Conference, themed Waves of Change: Leading Schools with Courage, from June 16–18. Stay for Family Fun Night, a special welcome reception and a Fun Run or Walk!

The conference features inspiring keynote speakers:

- **Mónica Guzmán**, Founder and CEO of Reclaim Curiosity, presenting Leading with Curiosity
- **Dr. Sheldon Berman**, Lead Superintendent for Social-Emotional Learning at AASA, discussing The Call to Courage: Reclaiming the Positive Narrative to Protect Good Teaching, Important Content and Students' Sense of Belonging
- **Carmen Xiomara Urbina**, Chief of Staff at Eugene SD, sharing insights on Leading with Love In Confrontational Times: Centering Our Children, Our Values, and Our Courage



FUTURE READY LEADERS: EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

August 4-5

Group and Early Bird Pricing!

Register 3 or more at \$300/person and get the 4th registration FREE!

Early bird pricing in effect until July 6!

Email [Sera Lockwood](#) to register a group!

Kick off the 2025–26 school year with your team at the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) Summer Conference, taking place August 4–5 in Eugene. This year's theme, Future Ready Leaders: Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, focuses on equipping educational leaders with the tools and insights needed to navigate the evolving landscape of AI in education.

Engage in pre-conference sessions on August 4, covering topics such as strengthening instruction, navigating new policies, enhancing collaboration, and leveraging AI for student outcomes. The conference features keynote speaker Joe McBreen, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation at St. Vrain Valley Schools, who will share insights on AI's impact on K-12 leadership.

Early registration is open from May 16 to July 6, with special group pricing available!

Congratulations

Honoring the outstanding leaders who inspire us and the dedicated COSA board members whose service shaped our journey.

2025 Award Recipients

Jerry Colonna Lifetime Achievement Award

Christy Perry, Retired Superintendent

Colt Gill Leadership Award

Heidi Sipe, Umatilla School District Superintendent

Lau Leadership Impact Award

Carmen Xiomara Urbina, Eugene 4J School District

OASE Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Ryan Noss, Corvallis School District

OACOA Achievement in Excellence

Sabrina Wood, Corvallis School District

OASSA High School Principal of the Year

Erik Lathen, Illinois Valley High School

OESPA Elementary Principal of the Year

Kara Davidson, Eastside School Coos Bay

OASSA Middle School Principal of the Year

Randy Dalton, Molalla River Middle School

OASSA Assistant Principal of the Year

Grant Piros, Meadow Park Middle School

OSSA Principal of the Year

Michelle Eagleson, Vernonia Elementary School

OSSA Teacher of the Year

Patrick Clarke, Siletz Valley Schools

2025 COSA Board

COSA Board President

Majalise Tolan,
Lincoln County School District Superintendent

OASE President

Alisha McBride,
Vale School District Superintendent

OACOA President

Vanessa Jones,
Grants Pass School District Director of Special
Services

OASSA President

Christy Hartford,
Neah-Kah-Nie High School Principal

OESPA President

Tobey Huddleston,
Aiken Elementary School Principal

Equity Board President

Dr. Joseph Hattrick,
Ashland School District Superintendent

With deep gratitude, we celebrate the extraordinary leaders who have dedicated their careers to Oregon's students, shaping futures and strengthening communities across the state.



Dr. Phil Long

Butte Falls

50 years in education, 9 in Butte Falls



Paul Hauder

Paisley

38 years in education, 8 years as superintendent

Rachel Stucky

Mount Angel

38 years in education, 4 as superintendent in Oregon



Scott Beveridge

Southern Oregon ESD

31 years in education, 11 as superintendent

James Hiu

Gresham Barlow

33.5 years in education, 3.5 as superintendent



Jack Henderson

Dufur

Larry Johnson

Arlington



JUNE ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECAST RELEASED

State economists delivered disappointing news for state lawmakers and education leaders in the [**latest June Economic and Revenue Forecast**](#). The key number we watched for is the net General Fund and Lottery resources available for the 2025-27 biennium – this number is down \$798 million from the March 2025 forecast. Additionally, the Corporate Activity Tax forecast for the 2025-27 biennium (which is the funding source for the Student Success Act) saw a drop in projected revenue – a decrease of \$44.4 million compared to the March Forecast.

Given the sobering news, K-12 education leaders and advocates still need to make a clear and convincing case to invest in our public schools to meet the increased, and increasingly complex, needs of our students in the 2025 Session. We will need to continue to advocate vigorously for the \$11.4 billion for the State School Fund (some good news to share on that front in the next section) and other core preK-12 programs and services like the Student Investment Account, High School Success, Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education, and Regional Inclusive Services.

STATE SCHOOL FUND BUDGET ([**SENATE BILL 5516**](#))

The Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee and full Joint Ways and Means Committee passed SB 5516 – [**earmarking \\$11.36 Billion for the State School Fund**](#). This SSF allocation is an increase of 11.35% from the 2023-25 state budget cycle.

Given the latest revenue forecast, we are thankful to Legislative Leadership and the Ways and Means Co-Chairs for proposing a 2025-27 Co-Chair Budget Framework that would fund the State School Fund (SSF) at \$11.4 Billion and build from the Governor's Recommended Budget. The Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee and full Joint Ways and Means Committee helped deliver on those promises by passing SB 5516 out of their committees. SB 5516 heads to the Senate floor next.

This funding is critical to maintaining staffing, preserving core programs, and supporting the academic and social-emotional needs of students.

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL CALCULATION MODERNIZATION BILL ([HOUSE BILL 2140](#))

We want to share our sincerest appreciation to Governor Kotek and her team for convening the State Chief Financial Officer, the Oregon Department of Education, Department of Administrative Services, Legislative Revenue Office, Legislative Fiscal Office and K-12 partners in updating the CSL calculation for 2025-27, proposing HB 2140 to split the SSF 49 / 51%, and ensuring that the most up-to-date local revenue estimates are used in the CSL calculation.

For additional context, updating the state's calculation for 2025-27 increased the SSF by \$515 million. Without this process, our CSL calculation would have been around \$10.8 Billion for 2025-27.

HB 2140 is a significant step forward in the state budgeting process to institutionalize long-needed updates to address structural issues within the CSL calculation this budget cycle and for future legislative budget cycles. This bill also helps limit session-long debates about SSF estimates. Improving how we calculate the Current Service Level for the State School Fund is long overdue – and with that, we are happy to report that HB 2140 passed out of Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee and full Joint Ways and Means Committee. The bill heads to the House floor next.

K-12 EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY BILL ([SENATE BILL 141](#))

As we increase funding for schools, we continue to welcome and support efforts to improve shared accountability within our education system. We are all in for shared accountability for the right things, and with meaningful and effective support in place so that the Oregon Department of Education, school districts and our educators and staff, and most importantly, our students, are supported and set up for success. We thank Governor Kotek, her team, state lawmakers, and K-12 education partners for their continued partnership on getting the details right on the accountability bills. We look forward to supporting the implementation of these improvements – at the state, regional, and local level – to our current K-12 education accountability system so that all students reach their full potential and thrive.

SB 141 passed out of the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee and full Joint Ways and Means Committee – **[\\$2.6 million is earmarked from the Student Success Act's Statewide Education Initiatives Account](#)** to help fund new positions at ODE to support implementation for the 2025-27 biennium. The bill heads to the Senate floor next.

[More information on the key components of Senate Bill 141 can be found here](#) in an overview we prepared in collaboration with our K-12 education partners.

After the legislative session wraps up, we will be co-authoring a legislative report with our partners at OSBA. Be on the lookout for that annual report later this summer!

COSA is supported by trusted business partners that provide many important goods and services for education. The Collaborative Corner will feature partner highlights and resources in each monthly communication.

Come to our session at Seaside!

Wrangling Data with Discovery Education & Otus: Empowering Educators with Time-Saving Insights

Explore how Discovery & Otus can transform student data into clear, actionable insights—saving you time and helping you make more impactful decisions for every learner.

Take this quick (and anonymous) [survey](#) to help shape the conversation, and join Discovery Education and Otus for a data discussion at COSA Seaside Conference on June 17th from 9:55-10:55am!

Lexia is hosting a free virtual event tailored for school leaders centered around the science of reading leadership. During this highly collaborative event, you'll have the opportunity to connect with area peers, share your insights, and tackle region-specific challenges and opportunities.

Use the QR code to sign up today!