



THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR



HOW FORESTRY IS FUELING STUDENT SUCCESS AT NEAH-KAH-NIE

On Oregon's coast, Neah-Kah-Nie High School is growing something special—future leaders, lifelong skills, and a deep respect for the forests that surround them. Through the Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL) program, students are diving into hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning with the industries that power their community.

Funded by timber revenues, Neah-Kah-Nie is uniquely positioned to offer students meaningful access to high-wage, high-demand forestry jobs. With events like timber cruising, arbor climbing, and ax throwing, students learn applied science, leadership, and career-specific skills—all while having a blast outdoors.

Many of the students involved had never joined a team or extracurricular before FNRL. Now, they're running competitions, mentoring others, and preparing for futures in forestry, diesel mechanics and beyond.

Superintendent Tyler Reed and Principal Christy Hartford both highlight the program's power to transform lives. "FNRL gives our students a real pathway to success—locally, right out of high school," Hartford said.

This episode of Education Expedition is part of the Oregon Strong campaign, celebrating the idea that our future begins in our public schools. When we invest in programs like FNRL, we invest in stronger communities, a skilled workforce, and opportunities for every kind of learner. [Click here to view this episode!](#)

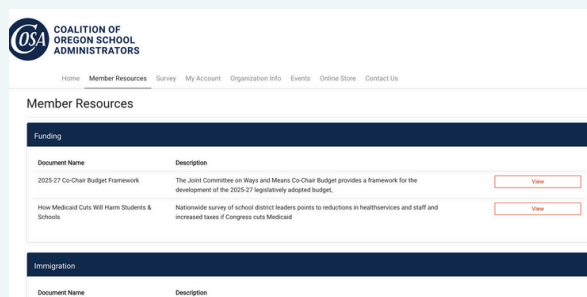
BUILDING STRENGTH THROUGH CONNECTION AND SUPPORT

Leadership in today's educational landscape can be as rewarding as it is challenging. Oregon's school and district leaders continue to inspire by navigating complex issues with grace, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to thrive. Yet, we also know that leadership can be lonely at times. The weight of making difficult decisions, balancing competing priorities, and standing in the middle of deeply divided communities can feel isolating. It is during these moments that having a trusted network of colleagues becomes not just helpful but essential. COSA is proud to offer numerous networking opportunities where leaders can connect, collaborate, and strengthen their leadership skills. Whether through regional meetings, affinity groups, or professional learning cohorts, there are many ways to engage and grow alongside peers who understand the unique demands of leading in today's environment.

In these challenging times, it is also important to remember that COSA is more than a professional organization—we are a community that stands ready to support you. Our team is always available to listen, provide guidance, and help you navigate the complexities of your role. Whether you need legal advice, want to talk through a difficult situation, or simply need a sounding board, COSA is here to be that trusted, friendly ear. You are not alone in this work. Together, we are building stronger leaders and a brighter future for Oregon's students. Thank you for the incredible work you do each and every day.



MEMBER RESOURCE PORTAL FOR SECURE AND ACCESSIBLE CONTENT



With all the policy changes and executive orders coming our way, it can be tough to keep track of what's going on.

As a response to this, COSA has created a landing page to hold all the resources we've shared over the last 3 months and will continue to update it on a regular basis.

[Click here to walk through how to access it!](#)

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

APRIL

[Addressing Informal Removals \(Webinar\)](#)

[Engaging Oregon Students in Career-Connected Deeper Learning \(Webinar\)](#)

[Small Schools Conference](#)

MAY

[Oregon Children and Youth Behavioral Health Summit](#)

JUNE

[Seaside](#)

 **Pro tip: Reserve lodging now!**

FINISH STRONG, DREAM BIG: BUILDING SMALL SCHOOLS TOGETHER

[Join small school leaders April 17-18 in Salishan if you want to:](#)

- Engage in conversations and workshops tailored for small, rural, and remote districts
- Recharge your passion for leadership and student success.
- Walk away with strategies and ideas you can implement immediately.
- Learn from leaders like YOU
- Get inspired!
- Practical Solutions for Big Challenges

FINISH STRONG, START STRONGER: A YEAR-END GUIDE FOR PRINCIPALS

As the school year winds down, now is the perfect time for principals to pause, reflect, and plan with purpose. This article offers guiding questions and a practical end-of-year checklist to help you finish strong and set the stage for a successful year ahead. Click through for tools to celebrate wins, support your team, and lead with intention into what's next.

[Read the full article here](#)

ENGAGING OREGON STUDENTS IN CAREER-CONNECTED DEEPER LEARNING (WEBINAR)

Molalla River School District offers career exposure from Kindergarten, focusing on essential skills for college, careers, and life through career-connected, project-based learning. In this 3 part webinar series, Superintendent Dr. Tony Mann and his team discuss their journey in enhancing education quality.

With session content tailored to different audiences, superintendents, district leaders and building leaders will all be sure to walk away with strategies and inspiration to start implementing tomorrow.

[Click here to register!](#)

COSA PRESIDENT MAJALISE TOLAN URGES LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE SSF; FULLY FUND SPED

What did you do on Spring Break? It's a question that will be asked thousands of times this week in classrooms across Oregon.

For COSA President Dr. Majalise Tolan, the answer includes a trip to Salem to testify before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education at their State School Fund hearing on Thursday, March 27th. Along with other education advocates, she asked the Committee to increase the investment in the State School Fund by fully funding Special Education. You can watch the video of Dr. Tolan's [testimony here](#) and read excerpts below.



"But even at \$11.4 billion, districts across Oregon are looking at budget and staffing reductions. A State School Fund that does not support our ability to serve all students diminishes the impact of critical targeted investments the Legislature has made.

While we are grateful for the proposed \$11.4 billion SSF investment, Oregon's antiquated and inequitable funding models for special education funding must be addressed this Session. In Lincoln County, about 16% of our students qualify for special education and we had to cover about \$703,000 due to lack of High Cost Disability funding for our 55 eligible students.

We must make funding changes and investments in Special Education this Session. That's why COSA and our members strongly support raising and funding the 11% Special Education Cap in the State School Fund by passing House Bill 2953 and fully funding the High Cost Disability Account by passing House Bill 2448. Passage of these two bills will help close the \$750 million biennial gap in special education funding in the State School Fund."



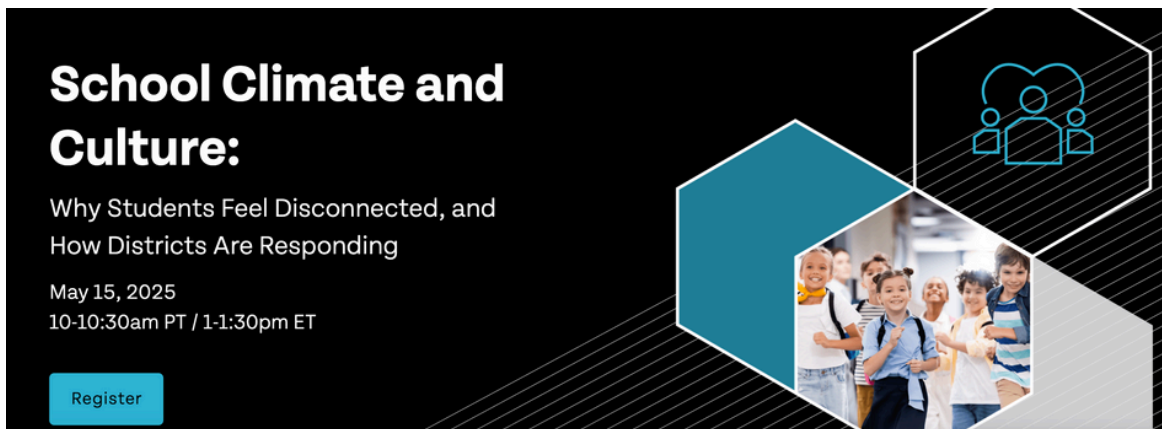
As we turn the corner into April, we urge Superintendents to continue to advocate for increased State School Fund investments. The COSA team has prepared [SSF talking points and messages](#) you can use with your local legislators.

We also want to remind you that State School Fund advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint. **The next key date is the May 14th Revenue Forecast** - legislators need to hear from you about the need to invest all the way through that date. Please contact Morgan Allen (morgan@cosa.k12.or.us) or Parasa Chanramy (parasa.chanrmany@cosa.k12.or.us) if you need any support.

COSA Partner Programs Powering Student Success

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

THOUGHTEXCHANGE



School Climate and Culture—Why Students Feel Disconnected, and How Districts Are Responding (Webinar)

Join ThoughtExchange on May 15, 2025, from 10:00–10:30 AM PT / 1:00–1:30 PM ET for a free, live 30-minute webinar exploring how K-12 leaders are addressing today's school climate and culture challenges. From belonging and safety to engagement and school involvement, school climate impacts every aspect of student success. In the wake of COVID-19 and new post-pandemic challenges, education leaders are finding innovative ways to foster stronger, more connected school communities.

This session will cover:

- The top barriers to school climate and culture identified by K-12 leaders
- Actionable strategies districts are using to create positive, inclusive environments
- How ThoughtExchange is helping leaders uncover real-time priorities and drive meaningful change

Reserve your spot today! Can't make it live? Register anyway and we'll send you the recording!

[Link to registration](#)