



# THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

*"It's hard to keep an open mind if you don't have an open heart. You don't have to agree with what people think to learn from how they think. You don't have to share their identity to be curious about what shaped it. Treating people with civility is a prerequisite for discovery."*

Adam Grant



## Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

[Equity Summit](#)

[Women's Leadership Summit](#)

[SPED Fall Conference](#)

[Law Conference](#)

[Oregon Law and Finance  
2 Credit Graduate Course](#)

## COSA IS COMING TO YOU! CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR THE FALL REGIONAL SCHEDULE

This fall, we will again be visiting all eleven COSA regions in-person to meet with superintendents, their leadership teams, and COSA's board leaders. There will be lots to discuss, including reviewing the work and recommendations of the K-12 Funding Workgroup and Student Supports Workgroup, a preview of the 2025 Legislative Session, and timely updates on COSA's professional development work. It is a great opportunity for you to engage in regional discussions about ongoing policy and advocacy opportunities to support our students, provide feedback on the new school year, and let us know how COSA can support the work you do to equitably serve the students in your districts. We will also address any local or region-specific issues or questions that arise as well.

Look for emails with the full agenda and meeting details in the coming weeks. And please feel free to invite other members of your administrative team – they will be more than welcome. For now, please mark your calendars with the following dates and locations to hold the time for these critical discussions – and please note – Lunch will be served:

You can view the schedule and Zones by [clicking here](#).



## A Message From the COSA Executive Director

Dear Education Leaders,

As summer fades and we stand at the threshold of a new school year, I'm filled with a sense of inspiration and possibility. It's a time when schools come alive with the energy of students, teachers prepared to inspire, and communities ready to support. As leaders in education, we hold the immense responsibility and privilege of guiding our schools toward success.

This year, more than ever, we must lead with a vision that is both bold and compassionate. Our role extends beyond management - we are here to inspire. Let's create environments where every member of our school community feels valued and empowered. Our students and staff look to us not just for direction, but for the assurance that together, we can meet the needs of every child in our care.

This year, let's be intentional about fostering inclusivity. Every student, regardless of their background, deserves access to opportunities that pave the way for their success. In doing so, we honor our commitment to our communities and to the future of Oregon.

**Remember, we're stronger together.** COSA's collaborative spirit is our greatest asset. I encourage you to actively engage with your peers across the state through COSA events, conferences, and networking opportunities. By sharing best practices and learning from each other's experiences, we can elevate the quality of education across Oregon.

As you step into this new year, I encourage you to lead with courage, empathy, and an unwavering focus on student success. Let's ensure our schools are safe havens where students feel respected and inspired to reach their full potential. Be the champions for your students, advocating for their needs and amplifying their voices.

Thank you for your dedication to this work and for your unwavering commitment to the students of Oregon. It is your leadership that will shape the future of our schools and communities, and I am honored to stand with you as we embark on this new school year together.

Here's to a year filled with growth, collaboration, and success for all. I am available to support you at any time. Please reach out.

In Leadership,  
Krista



## Policy and Advocacy Update

We want to thank all of the superintendents and administrators around the state who are engaging in our COSA workgroup process. Your input and feedback are critical to develop our policy and advocacy priorities for 2025. Our Policy and Advocacy team organized two penultimate COSA workgroup meetings on August 22 this year. Our COSA Funding Workgroup is working on specific recommendations around current service level, special education funding, and facilities. And our COSA Student Supports Workgroup is developing key policy platforms and goals that will inform our legislative priorities and education coalition work. Top issues include: Student Mental Behavioral Health, Special Education, Summer Learning, Early Literacy, and Workforce. Our final formal workgroup meetings will take place this September. As we continue to finalize our priorities, our team will provide more updates at our upcoming September Statewide Off-the-Record Meeting, and our 2024 Fall Regional Meetings.

## EAC Board of Directors Vacancies



Do you know someone with a passion for improving Oregon education or someone looking to collaborate to support educators across the state? The Educator Advancement Council is currently recruiting new Council Directors to fill the following open seats:

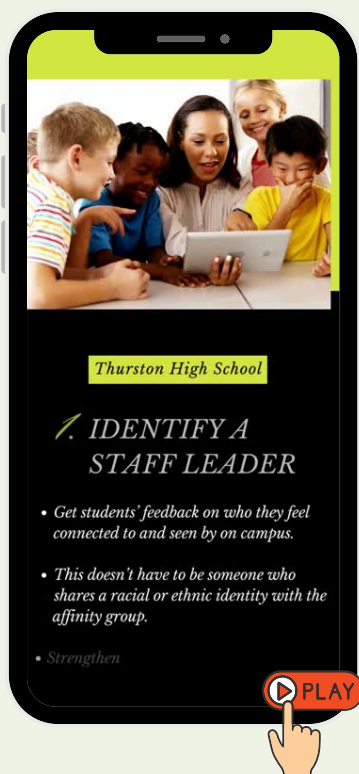
- ESD Superintendent
- K-12 Educator (2 positions)
- Non-Profit
- Middle School Teacher
- Philanthropic Organization
- Early Learning Provider
- Professional Education Organization
- Educator Preparation Program
- School District Superintendent

*Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis*

# Professional Learning Updates

## EDUCATION EXPEDITION

**Education Expedition** is a new interview series intended to bring real strategies, success stories and joy to you from leaders across the state. Our first episode features Thurston High School Principal, Kimberlee Pelster as she details how her school's affinity groups blossomed into a full campus climate shift where all are celebrated, elevated and seen. You can watch the full interview [here](#), or by visiting our YouTube channel [@COSALeaders](#). If you would like to be featured, please reach out to Cate Study at [cate@cosa.k12.or.us](mailto:cate@cosa.k12.or.us)



## LICENSURE AND DEGREES

COSA and the U of O are offering a 2-credit course held in conjunction with the COSA Special Education Fall Conference. This course provides K-12 school leaders and administrators with up-to-date information on Special Education policies and practices critical to Oregon schools.

### Oregon K-12 Special Education Policy & Practices

*\*In addition to the course, students must register for the COSA Special Education Conference as well as one pre-conference session.*

More information will be coming to the COSA website soon, stay tuned!



For questions, contact Chris Parra at [chris@cosa.k12.or.us](mailto:chris@cosa.k12.or.us)

## CONFERENCES

### Equity Summit September 26-27



**EQUITY EVOLUTION:**  
**Courageous Past, Transformative Future**

[Click here to register.](#)

### Women's Leadership Summit October 10-11



[Click here for more information and to register](#)

**FEARLESSLY FORWARD:**  
**Women Forging New Frontiers in Leadership**

### Special Education October 23-25



**CONNECT. INSPIRE. LAUGH.**

[Click here for more information](#)





# Collaborative Corner

## 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.

### FREE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

At the Summer Teaching and Learning Conference, we heard from Dr. Tricia Mooney (Hermiston SD) and Anne Brown, President and CEO of the Cook Center for Human Connection. Their keynote and sessions outlined the stark need for mental health supports for students and communities and provided barrier-free opportunities to meet those needs completely free.

The biggest resource comes from [ParentGuidance.org](https://parentguidance.org), an online platform that provides 24/7 guidance to students, parents and families. This resource is used nationwide and setup to get the medallion and resources on your school's website is simple and free.

Instructions for adding the medallion and ParentGuidance.org resources to your school's website can be found [here](#).



### VOICE AI COMING SOON TO I-READY®

[SoapBox Labs'](#) voice AI, built specifically to help young students learn to read, will soon be available exclusively with i-Ready.

By adding SoapBox's safe and accurate voice AI to our award-winning i-Ready Reading and Mathematics products, students will be more engaged in practice, while teachers will have more continuous and timely feedback to guide their small group and personalized instruction. SoapBox's voice AI honors the accents, dialects, speech patterns, and ethnicities of all students. It is the only voice AI certified by Digital Promise for mitigating racial bias in its design and development.

To learn more about voice AI and i-Ready, contact your local representative.

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### CENTER FOR MODEL SCHOOLS DISCOUNT CODE

The Center for Model Schools (CMS) is hosting its annual conference in June 2025 and is offering COSA members the best discount yet.

CMS is committed to transformational change and ensuring each student has access to a model school. Learn from building and district leaders who have successfully implemented model schools.

If you're interested in presenting, you can [learn more here](#).

Use code **ESSER25** until **9/30/24** for a registration discount.

For questions, please reach out to Lilia Andrews at [lilia.andrew@hnhco.com](mailto:lilia.andrew@hnhco.com)



Do you have information you'd like to feature in The Oregon School Administrator?  
Contact Cate Study at [cate@cosa.k12.or.us](mailto:cate@cosa.k12.or.us)