Executive Numbered Memo 001-2022-23
Requirements and Guidance for Online and Remote Learning

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Principals, Curriculum Directors, Education Partner Leaders and Communicators, PIOs, ESD Superintendents
FROM: Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: August 4, 2022
RE: Requirements and Guidance for Online and Remote Learning

In Oregon, the number of online and remote schools have consistently increased over the last two decades. During the 2021-22 school year, enrollment in these schools grew to 4.5 percent of all K-12 public students. While virtual public charter schools enroll a significant proportion of students, most of the new online and remote schools opening in recent years have been initiated by school districts. Based on current trends, it is clear that remote and online instructional models have been and will continue to be an important part of the K-12 education landscape in Oregon.

The purpose of this Executive Numbered Memo is to publish the [Online and Remote Learning Guidance](#). This new guidance:

- Clarifies what is required of remote and online schools; and
- Communicates the value of partnership and accountability – at the local and state level – for how to collectively improve the quality of student learning.

This is the first time Oregon school leaders have guidance pointing to a consolidated list of critical requirements and policies for online and remote learning. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) has observed that some laws and policies get overlooked or missed in the school or program design process even though all of the laws and policies that apply to public schools apply to online and remote schools (with few exceptions for public charter and alternative schools). As ODE has increased capacity to support online and remote learning, there has been an increased recognition of the need for shared learning and clarity in this space.

The Online and Remote Learning Guidance will help school leaders by embedding critical requirements in a framework of design indicators and questions for continuous improvement. ODE's goal is to support leaders in meeting requirements which are essential to educational equity while also designing for continuous improvement. Some schools will identify areas that need attention to come into compliance, which may implicate Division 22 compliance and assurances for school districts.

ODE will support schools and districts by providing training in using the guidance and associated tools, beginning with the informational webinars linked below. Additionally, companion resources including rubrics and promising practices will be released in the winter of 2023.

The Online and Remote Learning Guidance is a first step. Based on feedback and input, ODE will reissue the guidance for the 2023-24 school year and consider updates to relevant OARs and other policies. Partnership and shared accountability across all parts of the education system are needed to ensure opportunities and outcomes for all students as online and remote learning continues to play an important role in Oregon's K-12 landscape.

RESOURCES:
Online and Remote Learning Guidance
Remote Learning Website

NEXT STEPS:
The Department will:
- Re-issue updated guidance for the 2023-24 school year and beyond based on additional input.
- Review relevant OARs and consider working with the State Board of Education to update relevant OARs. This process will include engagement with educators, community members & families, and education partners.
- Provide training to online and remote school leaders, operators, and educators as well as charter school sponsors in using the Online and Remote Learning Guidance and associated tools.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE:
- Webinar: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:00-11:00AM
- Webinar: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:00-3:00PM

CONTACTS:
> Allie Ivey, Digital Learning Specialist
> Kate Pattison, Public Charter School Specialist
> Ken Greenbaum, Director of Digital Learning and Education Technology