



THE OREGON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

“To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing.”
Raymond Williams



Congratulations to Meadow Park Middle School Grant Piros, 2025 Assistant Principal of the Year! Piros pictured above with Principal Johanna Castillo, who nominated him for his deep sense of humility, community-centered mindset, and commitment to challenging systemic inequities.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

[When the Heat is On
Webinar](#)

[Preventing Restraint &
Seclusion Webinar](#)

[Winter Conference](#)

[Multilingual & English
Learners Conference](#)

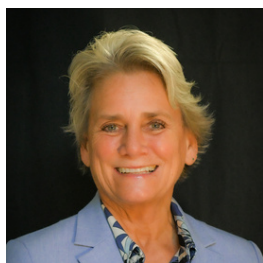
TRIBAL HISTORY, SHARED HISTORY REFLECTED THROUGHOUT WILLAMINA SD

Our Education Expedition to Willamina School District in November was originally to learn about their recent celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in October, but it quickly uncovered the deep work happening to embed tribal history and culture into the schools.

A district of less than 1,000 students situated near Grand Ronde in Yamhill County, Willamina works closely with the local tribes to bring dual language, embedded SEL and cultural celebrations into every aspect of the school day. In the elementary school, Principal Cera Norwood stresses, “these aren’t just our kids, these are **our** kids, the tribe included...”. Tribal Attendance Promising Practices (TAPP) advocate Rebecca Arredondo adds that, while her title includes “attendance”, the real work is in creating a culture of belonging at school to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism. Together, Arredondo and Norwood have worked hard to uplift and celebrate the identity of their students and have recently secured funding for an additional TAPP advocate at the middle and high school levels to further this work.

Interested in hearing the full story? Watch the new episode on our [YouTube channel here](#)

Got a positive story about public education? [Let’s hear it!](#)



Dear Education Leaders,

In a world often dominated by soundbites and headlines, it can be easy to feel disheartened by the challenges facing public education. Some narratives might suggest that our schools are falling short. But those of us within the system know the truth: public education is rising to meet demands that are more complex than ever before.

In Oregon, our schools are not just places of academic learning. They are centers of support, addressing the social-emotional, and mental and behavioral health needs of students while also providing critical services like nutrition and other life essentials. The pandemic was an extraordinary test, yet our public schools stood as pillars of stability and care for countless families during this unprecedented time.

At COSA, we witness daily the extraordinary dedication of our educators. Their commitment is unmatched, their passion unwavering, and their impact undeniable. Every day, their efforts transform lives, creating opportunities for students to learn, grow, and thrive.

While our public education system faces pressures and criticism from multiple fronts, this has not and will not diminish the resilience and resolve of those who believe in its mission. In Oregon, our educators continue to lead with courage, purpose, and an unrelenting focus on doing what is best for kids. Together, we are shaping a brighter future—one student at a time.

Oregon is Strong: Our Future Begins in Our Public Schools

- Public schools are the heart of our communities and the foundation of our future.
- They provide every child the chance to learn, grow and thrive while bringing diverse families and neighbors together.
- Right now, public schools need Oregon's strength – to invest in education, foster community connections and create spaces of care and belonging for all.
- Together, we can ensure every Oregon child has the opportunity to succeed and every community benefits from the power of public education.

Team COSA has been out across Oregon chronicling the great work going on in our public schools. These “Education Expeditions” can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#). Please share the stories with others throughout Oregon.

Keep up the great work, leaders, and remember, Oregon is Stronger together!

In Leadership,
Krista



OREGON'S DECEMBER ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECAST

Wednesday, November 20th marked the release of the December Economic and Revenue Forecast, projecting an additional \$982.5 million in Net General Fund and Lottery Resources for the 2023-25 biennium compared to the September 2024 Forecast. The personal kicker is now expected to reach \$1.792 billion (up from \$987 million), and the corporate kicker is projected at \$1.024 billion (up from \$882.8 million). Corporate kicker funds must be spent on K-12 education in the 2025-27 budget cycle.

Projected general fund and lottery revenues for the 2025-27 biennium grew significantly, with an increase of \$2.337 billion from the September 2024 forecast. This includes \$945 million in revenue carried over from 2023-25. State reserves, including the Education Stability Fund, Rainy Day Fund, and Cash Reserves, are projected to total \$5.702 billion by the end of the 2023-25 biennium, equivalent to 20.5% of the General Fund Budget. These reserves are well-positioned to roll into 2025-27, ensuring Oregon can weather a significant economic downturn.

Despite this positive revenue outlook, K-12 advocates must continue to push for investments in public schools to address growing and complex student needs in the 2025 Session. Competition for resources remains intense, with significant funding requests for affordable housing, human services, and other critical state programs. Additionally, uncertainties at the federal level could impact Oregon's economic outlook and state budget. Governor Kotek now has more revenue than anticipated to shape her Recommended Budget, set for release in December.

We believe there are three key takeaways for superintendents and COSA leaders from today's forecast:

- Even with the positive revenue news, K-12 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. There are significant needs and requests for investments in affordable housing and homeless services, human services, and other critical state services;
- This is positive news for Governor Kotek as she works to finalize her Governor's Recommended Budget for release in early December. Her budget team has significantly more revenue than anticipated to invest in key sectors and programs; and
- The new Economist noted that there is still significant uncertainty at the federal level as we await potential changes to economic policies, federal taxes, potential new tariffs, and changes in funding for federal entitlement programs. These federal level economic policies can have significant impacts on Oregon's economic outlook and the state budget in 2025.

Here are some links for more information:

[Office of Economic Analysis Presentation to the Revenue Committees](#)
[Legislative Revenue Office Forecast Summary](#)

For more details, refer to the Office of Economic Analysis Presentation to the Revenue Committees and the Legislative Revenue Office Forecast Summary. Contact [Morgan Allen](#) or [Parasa Chanramy](#) on COSA's Policy and Advocacy Team with questions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

COSA's associations recently elected new members to fill vacancies on their executive committees. Join us in welcoming these new leaders to their respective positions and don't hesitate to reach out to the representatives in your region. Click on the association for the full executive committee list.

OESPA

- Gretchen Carter, Tangent Elementary School, Greater Albany Public Schools

OASSA

- David Norton, 1A/2A - Pilot Rock Jr/Sr High School
- Mario Uribe Saldana, 3A/4A - McLoughlin High School
- Jeb Hubbs, Junior High/Middle School - Oliver Middle School

Learn more about COSA's associations by [clicking here](#)

CONFERENCES

Winter Conference February 11-12, Salem

- Early bird registration deals until January 10th. [Click here to register!](#)
- Visit our [event page](#) to find lodging codes, speaker information and more!

Multilingual and English Learners February 26-28th

- Registration is now open! [Click here to secure your spot today!](#)
- If you are interested in submitting a presentation, please [fill out this RFP by December 16th](#)

Preventing Restraint and Seclusion in Oregon Schools Webinar

Expectations:

- Each session will deeply explore key areas, providing actionable guidance, best practices, and legal frameworks to help administrators foster safe, supportive, and equitable learning environments for all students.
- More than one presenter
- Not the same presenter, strand over strand
- OESO admin in the space

[Register here](#)

Module 1: Legal Parameters and Requirements

December 6

7:30-9am

Zoom

Module 2: Preventative Strategies

December 14

7:30-9am

Zoom

Module 3: Data Collection and Reporting

December 19

7:30-9am

Zoom

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.

JUST RIGHT READER



Just Right Reader invites your district to join the Take-Everywhere Literacy Packs™ Pilot Program, offering free Science of Reading packs to boost literacy over Winter Break.

Aligned with your phonics programs in English and Spanish, these personalized packs include 3 rounds of take-home decodables for 10 to 100 students—up to 3,000 books per district!

[Apply here](#) by December 10 to secure your spot.

Questions?

Contact

annie.polacek@justrightreader.com

THOUGHTEXCHANGE

With cell phones playing an increasingly complex role in K-12 education, developing thoughtful, community-aligned policies is more important than ever.

ThoughtExchange's new report, Education Leaders Survey Report: Cell Phone Policies in K-12 Schools, shares findings and expert recommendations on how cell phone use impacts students, the challenges districts face, and practical strategies to develop effective policies. In this report, you'll find:

- The impact of cell phones on learning and student well-being
- Key challenges to establishing effective cell phone policies
- Steps to develop, implement, and refine cell phone policies
- Expert perspectives on leading policy discussions in districts

[Read the Report here](#)

MOTIVATE YOUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS WITH DECODABLE READERS THEY'LL LOVE

Magnetic Readers help ignite a lifelong love of reading with texts that captivate and challenge Grades K-2 students.

These decodable readers are:

- Easy to use with any foundational skills program
- Highly engaging, with practice opportunities for building phonics skills, high-frequency word skills, and fluency
- Essential for beginning to build background knowledge through connected fiction and nonfiction texts
- Ideal for solidifying skills in both whole class and small group settings

To request your free sample classroom kit, contact your local representative.
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