



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

**HB 2022: Oregon Virtual School District  
House Committee on Education  
January 30, 2019**

Good afternoon, Chair Doherty and members of the committee. For the record, I am Jessica Ventura from the Department of Education. With me is Vanessa Clark, with the office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, which includes coordination of the Oregon Virtual School District. We are here to ask for your support for HB 2022.

**Background**

The 2005 Legislature created the Oregon Virtual School District (ORVSD) to provide online courses to kindergarten through grade 12 public school students. Districts contract for services with ORVSD and then offers courses to its students. Through its online course access, the Oregon Virtual School District (ORVSD) offers students in Oregon flexibility and personalization to meet their desired pathway needs for career and college at a reduced cost per student. Students in Oregon's small and rural districts do not always have access to the courses needed for personalized learning and preparation for career and college; these small and rural districts are the program's biggest customers.

During the first ten years of ORVSD, the program provided access to tools, course materials, and training. During the 2015-16 school year, ORVSD began offering online courses with a teacher to 138 rural school districts, at their request. Each year, since 2015, students have had access to 42-50 different courses that would not otherwise be available in their rural district.

Courses include higher level math, world languages, AP courses, Honors courses, CTE courses and other courses like marine science, digital photography or criminology, to name a few.

Students enrolled in ORVSD/Oregon Online courses demonstrate a much higher rate of successful achievement than most other online programs in the state. 85% complete the course. Of those completers:

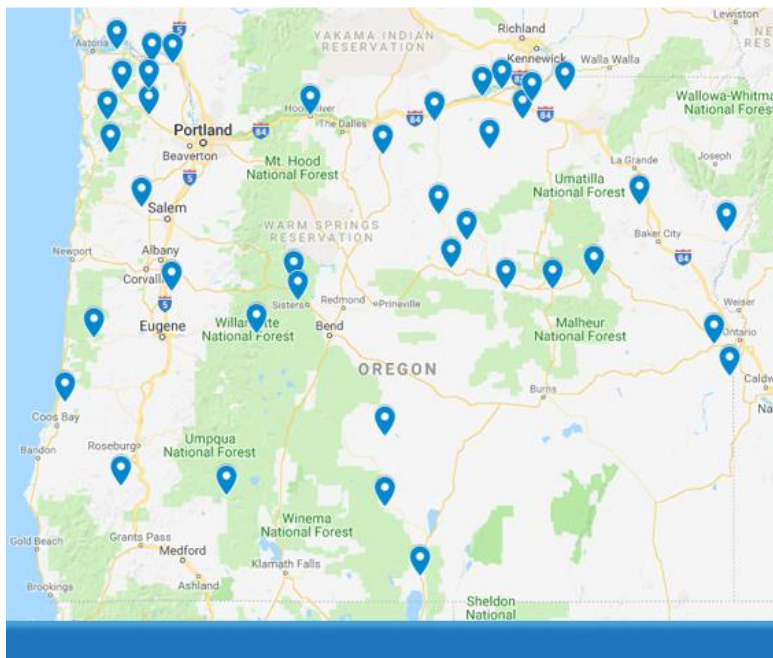
- 90% complete the course with an A, B, or C
- 7% complete the course with a D
- 3% complete the course with an F

Funding for the program is a "carve out" from the State School Fund and is continually appropriated to the Department of Education. Students enrolling in ORVSD courses remain the

student of the resident district. State School Funds continue to flow to the student's resident district, who then contracts with ORVSD for courses.



## Where are ORVSD students from?



Over 500 students from all across the state took courses through the ORVSD during the 2017-18 school year.

Each blue flag on the map marks a school district with students who took an ORVSD course.

### Issue:

The name, “Oregon Virtual School District” is confusing. The program is not a school district and many confuse ORVSD with Oregon Virtual School, an online charter school.

In addition, as many school districts incorporate blended learning and online learning into their instructional programs, there is a need for professional learning for teachers in integrating blended and online learning. Improved professional learning will likely increase the quality of existing online programs across the state and aligns with of the Secretary of State's audit recommendations (Report No 2017-30: *Department of Education: Stronger Accountability, Oversight, and Support Would Improve Results for Academically At-Risk Student in Alternative and Online Education*).

**HB 2022:**

Under HB 2022, the Oregon Virtual School District would be renamed Oregon Online to eliminate the confusion about the program.

The scope of ORVSD would be expanded to include professional development, including standards for quality and support to districts implementing online learning. This will increase access to quality professional learning about blended and online learning for districts across the state. Districts will increase their online learning capacity and decrease their cost. Some of the professional learning opportunities will be online in order to allow for educators in rural and remote school districts to have greater access.

**Fiscal:**

There is no fiscal impact to the department; it is absorbable with existing staff.

**Conclusion:**

We look forward to your support of HB 2022 and are happy to answer any questions you may have.