



2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

# HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

## A Comprehensive Guide for Our Path Forward



### **A big, big thank you!**

The High School Success Team (HSS) is committed to supporting system development that will positively impact outcomes for students across Oregon. This resource is intentionally designed to support HSS grant recipients in understanding components of the program including: eligibility requirements; the process of self-assessing and progress review; and how monitoring centers equity.

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# GROUNDING OUR WORK

## EQUITY. OPPORTUNITY. INVESTMENT.

The last three years of High School Success (HSS) grant funding tells a story of collective commitment -- one where local schools and communities partner -- working together to create a more equitable, well-rounded and engaging education system.

Schools and districts have utilized HSS funds to revitalize high school programs and facilities. They've done so in a way that has dramatically increased equitable access to programs and activities and in turn bolstered high school graduation rates, particularly among traditionally and currently marginalized student populations.



## SHARED GOALS

In addition to connecting communities to their local schools, the 232 grant recipients have partnered with the Oregon Department of Education to:

- Improve student progress toward graduation beginning with grade 9.
- Increase the graduation rates of high schools.
- Improve high school graduates' readiness for college and career.

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## A FOCUSED APPROACH

Research<sup>1</sup> tells us that students who are “on track” at the end of their 9th grade year — earning at least a quarter of the credits needed for four-year graduation and failing no more than one core content course — are as much as four times more likely to graduate from high school than their peers.

The 9th grade on track metric is not only helpful as a predictive measure of a student’s likelihood of graduating, but it also serves as a way to focus intervention and support for students who need it most.

# THIS RESOURCE

## DESIGNED TO SUPPORT GRANT RECIPIENTS

This resource is intentionally designed to support High School Success grant recipients in understanding components of the program including:

- Meeting eligibility requirements;
- The process ODE will use to assess progress; and
- How monitoring centers equity.



The HSS team is committed to supporting system development that will positively impact outcomes for students across Oregon. Several of the sections will be published as stand-alone documents in the case that sharing or using them in a more digestible segment is preferred.

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<sup>1</sup> [Calculating Freshman On-Track](#)

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# Eligibility Requirements

All High School Success recipients must meet eligibility requirements in order to receive and spend funds. Eligibility requirements ensure schools and districts put systems into place designed to take a look at what data they collect and begin the process of improving data literacy.

The requirements for eligibility, as outlined in statute ([ORS 327.883](#)) are:

- Teacher Collaboration Time around Key Student Data
- Practices to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism
- Equitable Assignment of Students to Advanced Courses
- Equitable Access to Courses Required For On-Time Graduation

## HOW TO MEET ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

[The Eligibility Requirements Rubric](#) will be used to determine each recipients’ progress toward meeting eligibility.

The rubric uses the following scale:

<b>Not yet meeting</b>	<b>Emerging</b>	<b>Practicing</b>	<b>Embedded</b>
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To demonstrate each of the required areas (teacher collaboration time around data; practices to reduce chronic absenteeism; equitable assignment to advanced courses; systems ensuring on-time graduation) are in place, recipients must, at minimum, receive a “practicing” score from ODE on the [Eligibility Requirements Rubric](#).

### **A Note on Districts with Multiple High Schools**

When a district has multiple high schools, including alternative schools and online schools, each school must meet the criteria in order for the district to meet eligibility requirements. This includes districts working in consortium.

## **ODE TO BEGIN ASSESSING ELIGIBILITY IN THE FALL OF 2020**

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, ODE staff will formally assess recipients' progress toward meeting eligibility requirements. It is important to note that each recipient's self-assessment completed in the Spring of 2019 remains an important input, one of many. ODE's formal assessment will use eligibility criteria along with other tools and inputs to assess eligibility such as:

- Recipient's Self-Assessment completed in Spring of 2019;
- Eligibility Requirement Assessment conducted by ODE during the Fall and Winter of 2020/2021;
- Questions Aligned to the Eligibility Requirements Rubric;
- Plan Approval Conversation Documentation; and
- Other data as needed to round out understanding of progress made toward meeting eligibility requirements.



ODE staff will focus on ensuring schools and districts have the support necessary to establish and maintain the systems required by eligibility as stated in statute ([ORS 327.883](#)).

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## TIMELINE FOR MEETING ELIGIBILITY

*Eligibility Requirement Assessments will be conducted as online meetings for the 2020-2021 school year. Beyond the 2020-2021 school year, follow-ups will be conducted both in-person and online depending on a variety of factors.*

Key Dates	Action
August - September 2020	ODE will reach out to recipients via email to schedule Eligibility Requirement Assessments, where the Eligibility Rubric will be used to assess progress toward meeting all requirements.
October - February 2021	ODE will conduct Eligibility Requirement Assessments.
February 2021	ODE completes Eligibility Requirement Assessments of all recipients of High School Success funds by the end of February, 2021.

## WHEN A RECIPIENT DOES NOT YET MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If the assessment finds a recipient has not met eligibility requirements, ODE staff will work with the school or district to ensure eligibility can be met with additional support. **Note: all recipients must demonstrate they have met eligibility by the Spring of 2022 or they risk funds being withheld.**

ODE will provide the following supports for all recipients who have not yet met eligibility requirements:

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1. Design a plan of support in collaboration with recipients.
  2. Recommend action steps and a timeline to meet eligibility requirements.
  3. Assess recipients' progress and notify when requirements are fully in place.
  4. Direct how funding is used.
  5. (If needed) Initiate a Corrective Action Plan with focused supports from ODE for the 2022-2023 school year for any recipient who still does not have all eligibility requirements fully in place. Funds will be withheld, in part or in full, until all eligibility requirements are fully in place.

## Withholding Funds & Corrective Action Plans

During the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, ODE staff will proactively work directly with and support any recipient who is not meeting eligibility requirements. If, by the end of the 2021-22 school year, ODE staff determines a school district, charter school, YCEP/JDEP, or Oregon School for the Deaf does not meet all of the eligibility requirements, then ODE has a variety of support options to ensure all requirements are met. Those options include collaborating and intervening around plans, budgets, activities, and as a last resort, withholding funds the following year ([ORS 327.880](#)). If funds are withheld, the recipients will be placed on a Corrective Action Plan, and will receive support from the High School Success team.

If a recipient is placed on a Corrective Action Plan, the High School Success point of contact for the school or district and the Superintendent or Executive Director will be notified in writing (via email) in March of 2022, prior to the funds being withheld. Any recipient who meets eligibility through a Corrective Action Plan will receive all of their withheld funds during the second year of the biennium.

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# Timeline of Supports

## 2020-21 School Year

All recipients will be assessed using the eligibility requirements rubric. For recipients who have not yet met eligibility requirements, ODE will set up check-in calls to explore root causes; articulate action steps; and identify resources to support progress.

## 2021-22 School Year

ODE staff will reassess eligibility for recipients who did not meet all requirements during the 2020-21 school year. ODE staff will work with recipients as described above. If recipients are unable to meet requirements, ODE will deliver a notification of Decision to Withhold Funds and employ a Corrective Action Plan by March 2022 ([ORS 327.880](#))

## 2022-23 School Year

For recipients unable to meet eligibility requirements, they will follow the developed Corrective Action Plans and work closely with ODE staff to continue making progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

## CONTACT THE HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS TEAM

If you have any questions, please reach out to the High School Success team at: [hssuccess@ode.state.or.us](mailto:hssuccess@ode.state.or.us).