

SECRETARY OF STATE

Measure 98

Oregon Department of Education: ODE Continues to Effectively Implement Measure 98 and Increase Collaboration Across Agency Programs



House Committee on Higher Education

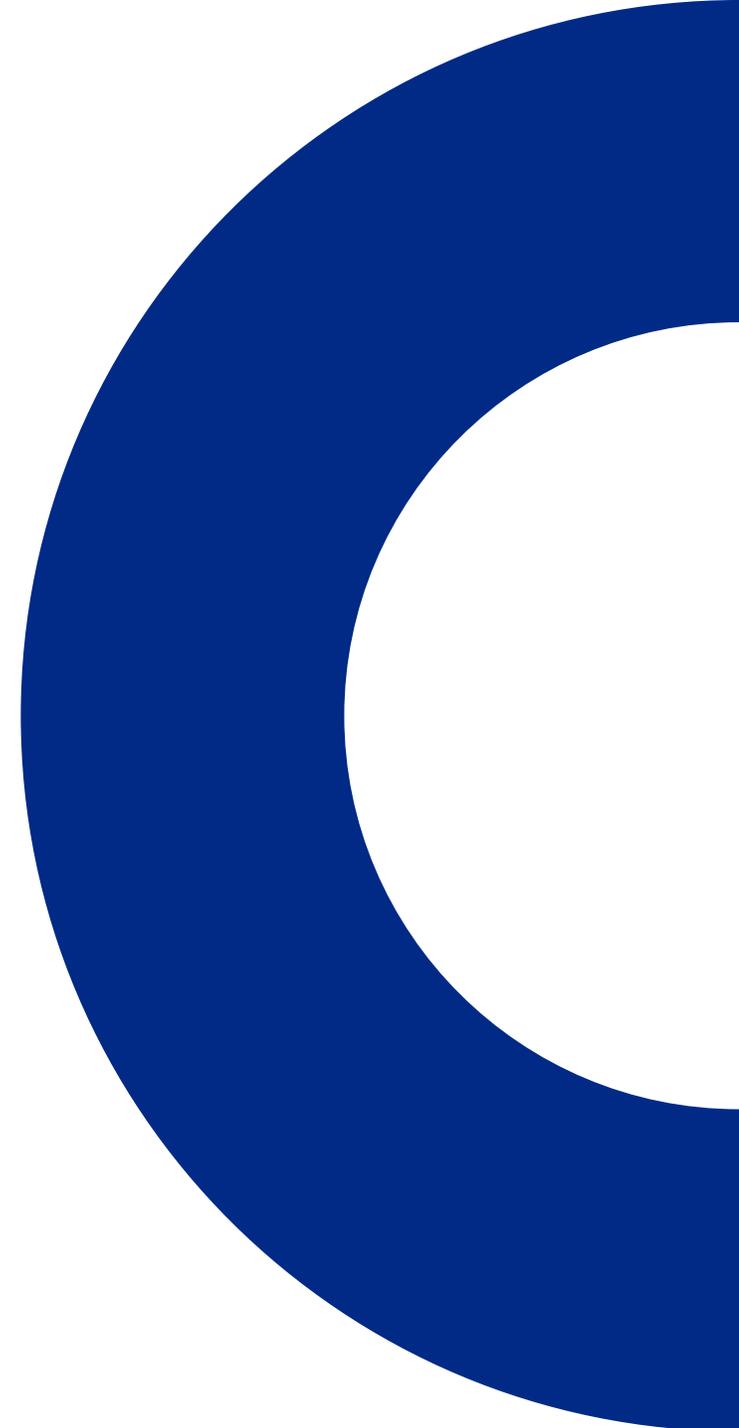
January 24, 2023

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Oregon Ballot Measure 98, approved by voters in November 2016, established the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund (“High School Success Fund”).

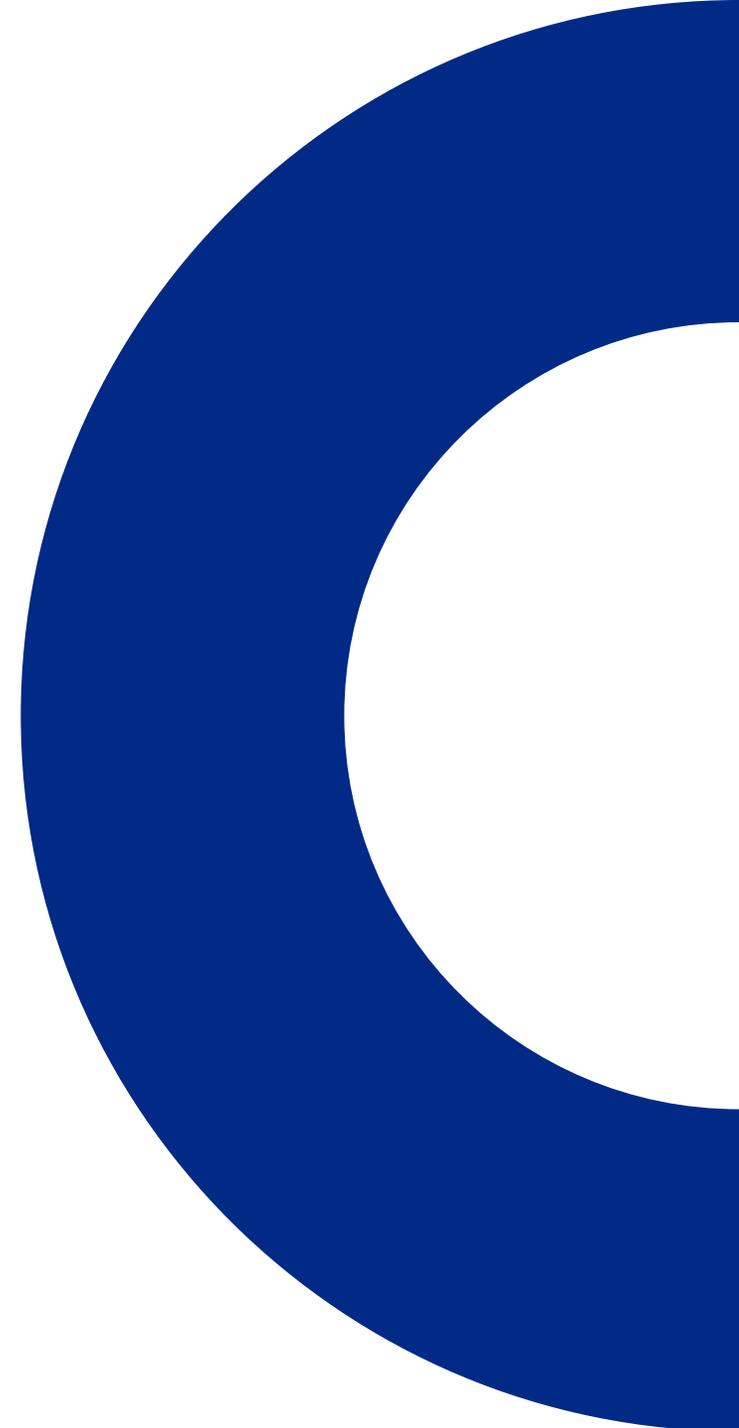
The measure’s intent was to provide targeted funding of \$800 per high school student per year to address Oregon’s low high school graduation rate and expand career and technical programs and college-level course offerings.

This audit is the second performance audit required by the ballot measure.



A REPORT IN TWO PARTS

- Review of new guidance affecting the High School Success program
- Follow-up on recommendations from the audit released in 2020

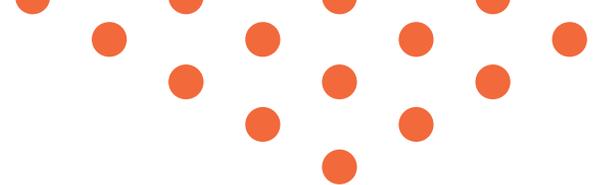


INTEGRATED GUIDANCE

At the request of the Legislature in 2019, ODE evaluated the potential for combining applications, agreements, monitoring, and reporting for programs or grants administered by the agency. As a first step in this process, ODE identified six programs with complementary and overlapping goals.

	Funding level	Purpose
Student Investment Account	\$892.3 million	Reduce academic disparities and meet students' mental health and behavioral needs.
High School Success	\$307.3 million	Improve high school graduation rates, increase equitable access to advanced coursework, and improve high school graduates' readiness for college and careers.
Federal Perkins V	\$30 million	Improve access and participation in education and training programs that prepare learners for high-wage, high-skill, in-demand careers.
Every Day Matters	No longer a stand-alone initiative	Reduce chronic absenteeism.
Early Indicator and Intervention Systems	\$3.7 million	Support systems within a school or across a district to gather, review, and analyze predictive data at a student level.
Continuous Improvement Planning	None	Improve experiences and outcomes for students by promoting shifts in educator behaviors through fostering engagement in collaboration, data analysis, professional learning and reflection.

INTEGRATED GUIDANCE

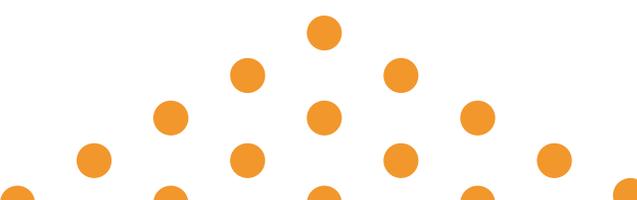


This change will bring the programs into greater alignment by integrating the guidance for the six programs, streamlining the application process for school districts and other program participants, and allowing a larger pool of staff to support districts in all six programs.

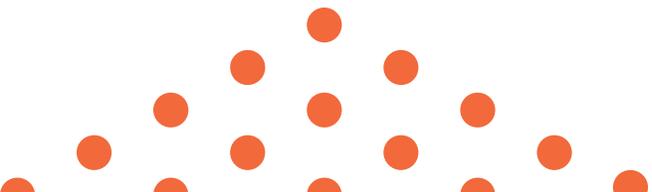
If integration is successful and school districts are able to use funds from the separate programs with similar purposes, students could experience more robust programs than they would if districts are limited to smaller offerings from separate funds.

ODE is also recommending districts adopt a “tiered planning” approach. Under this approach, districts would build in back-up plans in the event funding is cut or staff are not available to support the original plans developed by districts based on local priorities. At this time, districts are encouraged but not required to use tiered planning.

ODE will need to ensure participants are able to meet the statutory requirements for the High School Success program under the new integrated guidance, and from the review we conducted they appear well on track to do so.



“The new guidance is very promising, and successful implementation will be complicated but could be a positive step for ODE staff, school administrators, and the students Measure 98 was intended to benefit.”



2020 RECOMMENDATION FOLLOW-UP

Include in the annual expenditure review process, and in **future plan development and approval processes**, a review of past planned and actual expenditures, and the impact of mid-year changes on expected outcomes

Partially
Implemented

Include in the change approval process and rubric a review of expected changes to local outcomes.

Implemented

Document the most time-consuming technical difficulties for High School Success program staff and recipients and create a plan to minimize them.

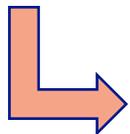
Implemented

Develop goals, targets, timelines, and data measures for the High School Success program in the final internal program evaluation plan.

Implemented

Use data from ODE and from site visits in higher-level analyses to further program and equity goals and to align with larger ODE initiatives.

Implemented



Remaining to do: ODE did not previously have robust tracking for past plan changes and the impact on expected outcomes, They have introduced a process to collect that information, but those conversations have been more informal than they expect them to be in the future. Agency staff plan to incorporate information about mid-year changes into future plan development and approval processes.

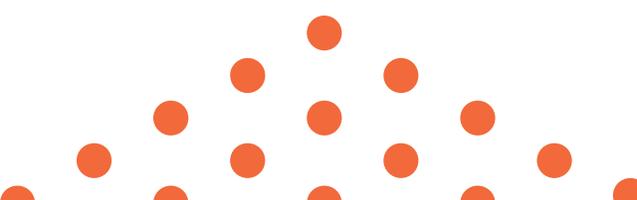
2022 RECOMMENDATIONS

While we did not identify concerns with the integrated guidance that has been released, implementation of the guidance will be a complex process. We encourage ODE to be mindful of challenges and opportunities that might arise. As the agency implements the new integrated guidance, ODE should:

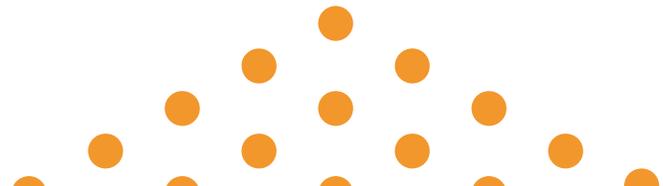
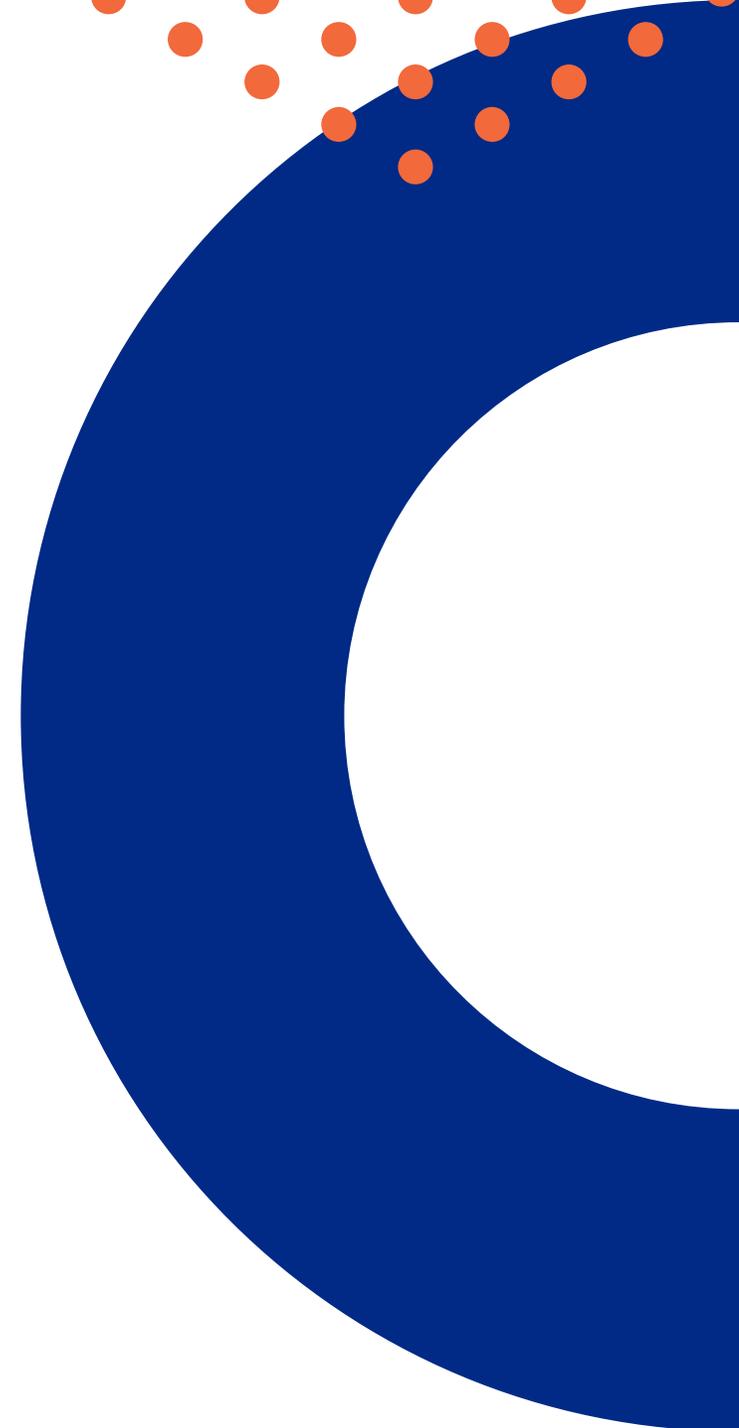
- Document challenges encountered by ODE staff or High School Success program participants during implementation of the new integrated guidance.
- Document the number of program participants who use the tiered planning approach recommended by the integrated guidance.
- Measure outcomes that can be attributed to the High School Success program to demonstrate how well the program is meeting the intent of the original ballot measure.

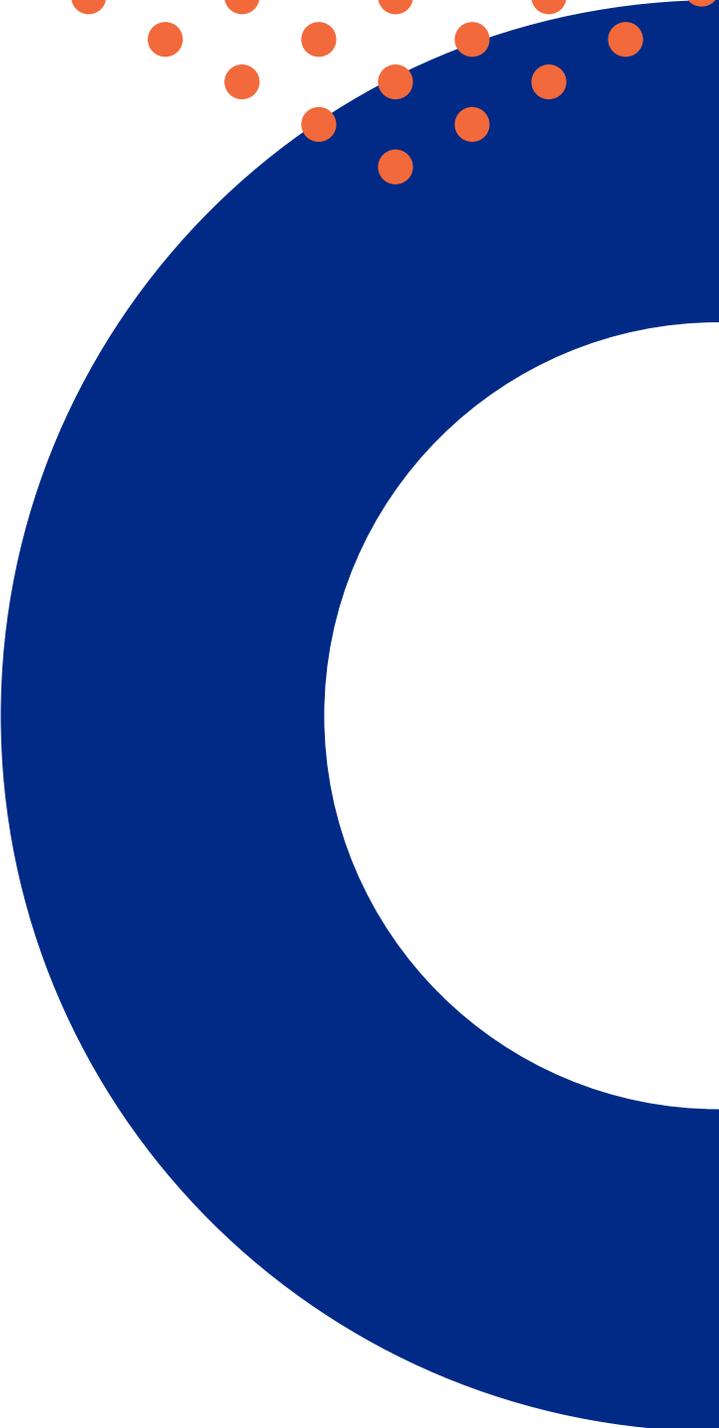
To complete the recommendations from the 2020 audit of the High School Success program, ODE should:

- Include in the annual expenditure review process, and in future plan development and approval processes, a review of past planned and actual expenditures, and the impact of mid-year changes on expected outcomes.



QUESTIONS?





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