

# OUTDOOR SCHOOL FOR ALL! HB 3037 HEARING FEB. 22, 2023





# Overview

- Measure 99 and the history of ODS
- ODS 101
- ODS participation
- Services and Outreach to Schools and Districts
- Current ODS Reporting and Data Collection
- HB 3037
- Final thoughts and Q & A





# Measure 99 and the history of state funding

- ODS began in Oregon +60 years ago
- Traditionally a week-long residential, hands-on learning experience for 5th or 6th grade students
- By 2007 funding cuts lead to less than half of students attending
- In 2015, "Outdoor School bill" (SB439) passed establishing ODS as a statewide program
- In 2016, voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 99, authorizing state lottery funds to provide access for all fifth-or sixth grade students to attend
- Program launches with \$24 million authorized by the Legislature over first biennium



# Outdoor School 101

- Immersive high quality learning experiences for every student
- Diverse implementation across Oregon
- ORS 327.390 outlines curriculum elements
- Core elements
  - Standards-based
  - Field Science
  - Teamwork, problem solving, & collaboration
  - High School Leadership
- Extremely strong outcomes
- Up to one week of residential programming for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders



# Over 157,436 Oregon Students have participated in ODS since 2017\*

## Outdoor School Data Update

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023*
Participating Districts, ESDs, and State Charters	130	163	157	154	153	161
Participating Schools	385	529	172	539	547	557
Number of Students	30,739	37,965	13,764	34,645	35,274	43,115
Equivalent Number of Days Outside	115,131	148,887	55,462	116,701	139,402	175,939
Number of Schools with Cancelled Programs	NA	NA	346	186	63	NA



First Biennium - program growth with normal operation



Second Biennium - pandemic impact. When schools reopen, providers/districts respond to our call for participation



Third Biennium - numbers as of November 29, with minor changes anticipated

\* Numbers are estimates based on application information. Final numbers will be actuals based on reports received at the end of the academic year.

*2021-2022: Includes some 7<sup>th</sup> graders who missed opportunity due to covid*



# Service and Outreach to Schools and Districts

- Application, Reporting, and Funding
- Outcomes Evaluation
- Regional and statewide Gatherings/conferences
- Online and in-person resources for educators
- Technical Assistance
- Guidance related to equitable outdoor education
- Critical Orientations Indigenous Studies course for outdoor educators
- Volunteer Training Program
- Spanish web page
- Ongoing training for staff and advisory board

# Current Outdoor School Reporting Requirements

- Application and Reporting provides us with baseline data:
  - Fiscal data: Actual reimbursable costs related to ODS
  - School-level participation
  - Self-reported data related to outcomes in ORS 327.390



# Data Collection Challenges

- ORS 327.390 requirement:
  - Addressing the inequity of outdoor educational opportunities for underserved children in this state (i.e. participation).
  - Prioritizing outdoor school programs that promote standardized measures of academic achievement, reduce discipline problems, and increase engagement (i.e. improve school attendance).
  - Evaluating impacts of outdoor school programs.
- No access to student-level data
- Current Program-level data is self-reported
- No access to demographic data (although we get a good sense of this with our biennial statewide outcomes evaluation)



# HB 3037

## Two Components:

- Outlines new student-level data collection for each student across all districts/schools.
  - The new data collection is one yes/no question: “did the student attend outdoor school?” for 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. This accounts for high school leaders participating in outdoor school programs statewide.
  - Legislate a student-level educational data sharing agreement among Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service Outdoor School program

# Final thoughts

- Outdoor school is an integral, transformative experience for K-12 instruction and Oregon's youth and better data will help us continue to improve our wrap around services
- We are seeing strong growth in student participation and better data will help us target our outreach to schools and districts to better serve under-served students not participating in ODS
- THANK YOU for your support - ODS is one of a kind







# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS