

HB 3941

OREGON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Oregon's Community Schools will transform public education by establishing hyper-local community collaborations and integrating educational, developmental, family, and health services.

By implementing six key practices, the cradle-to-career model streamlines access to essential support services, aligning resources to tackle the social determinants of education and health. This strategy emphasizes cross-sector collaboration and community engagement, with schools serving as central hubs for coordination.

RATIONALE

Recognizing schools as natural community hubs, it's crucial to acknowledge that they cannot resolve complex social and economic problems alone.

Collective action involving schools, healthcare, social services, youth, and families is necessary to tackle the broader systemic issues impacting education. Community Schools aim to address these challenges through integrated, community-driven support, improving student and family well-being and education outcomes.

KEY PRACTICES LEVERAGE AND ALIGN EXISTING INVESTMENTS

Integrated Student Supports align fragmented mental health, healthcare, and social service delivery, creating a cohesive support system for students and families.

Expanded and Enriched Learning provides opportunities for learning and engagement before and after school, weekends, and in the summer.

Powerful Student and Family Engagement empowers families and students as partners in setting goals, fostering a shared identity rooted in the values of the community.

Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power, and Voice equip school leaders, teachers, family, and community partners with the tools to rethink and rebuild systems together.

Rigorous, Community Connected Classroom Instruction integrates high-quality instruction with rigorous content and real-world skill-building and learning opportunities.

Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care supports school staff to work with students, families, and partners to cultivate a welcoming climate that fosters trust.



Lottery Bonds
\$4.99 mil



**4 years of
funding**



**5 grants to
Community School
consortiums**



**Statewide
Steering
Committee**



**Evaluation and
Technical
Assistance**






COMMUNITY DRIVEN AGENCY SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ARE COST-EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND PROMISE RETURNS ON OUR INVESTMENTS

Currently, there is no role in which someone coordinates services that otherwise operate in siloes. Community schools invest in a local coordinator who facilitates cross-sector and in-district collaboration, supporting effective use of local and State resources while meeting the unique needs of each locale.

 A case study shows that **each \$1 invested in a Community Schools Coordinator returns over \$7** in net benefits.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

-  **Texas:** After 5 years, Webb Middle School **became the highest performing Title I Middle School in Austin**, the high school was graduating 85% of their students, and enrollment had more than doubled.
-  **Florida:** In 3 years as a Community School, the high school dramatically increased enrollment from 1,975 to 2,495, halved disciplinary incidents, more than doubled industry certifications, tripled International Baccalaureate diplomas, and **raised their graduation rate by 15%**.
-  **Maryland:** After 8 years, the Elementary school ranked 2nd in the city academically, its mobility rate had gone down to 8.8 percent, 95 percent of 5th grade students were proficient in reading, and its **average daily attendance rate was 95 percent**.
-  **California:** In 1 year, the profiled high school had raised its graduation rate from 83 to 93.9 percent and its suspension rate remained at only .2 percent of students. By graduation day, **99 percent of seniors had enrolled in college**.
-  **Ohio:** Over five years, the city's Community Schools **reversed their decline in school enrollment**, as well as stabilized it by bringing large numbers of families back into the public school system.

OREGON ORGANIZATIONS TAKING ACTION

The Oregon Community Schools initiative is the result of a **cross-sector collaboration** that began in 2022 among a diverse coalition of over 50 organizations distraught about a youth school and health crisis. The initiative is supported by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and Youth Development Oregon (YDO) with rural, suburban, and urban school districts poised to implement the program with necessary support. In 2024, the coalition evolved to form a statewide community schools steering committee with the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance as the backbone.

STATEWIDE STEERING COMMITTEE



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maureen Hinman
Executive Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance
maureen@osbha.org; 503-719-4515

Iris Maria Chavez
Equity Action Partners
iris@equityactionpartners.com
504-701-3931