



STAND
for children

OREGON

Instructional Time and Chronic Absenteeism in Oregon: ECOnorthwest Study Findings

February 2026

Why time and attendance?

After championing the early literacy success initiative and making targeted investments, **we started wondering if this alone would be enough.**

8:30 - 8:45	Morning Meeting
8:45 - 9:30	Specials
9:30 - 10:00	Literacy: Whole Group Foundational Skills
10:00 - 10:45	Literacy: Small Group
10:45 - 11:05	Recess
11:05 - 12:05	Math
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch and Recess
12:50 - 1:10	Literacy: Whole Group Comprehension
1:10 - 1:40	Literacy: Small Group Interactive Writing
1:40 - 2:25	Science
2:25 - 2:45	Recess
2:45 - 3:30	Social Studies

IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH BACKED LITERACY CURRICULUM

← appx 30 minutes
short

WHY TIME & ATTENDANCE MATTER

1. We're asking a lot of our educators: **cover *more content in less time* than almost all other states, while one-third of students are chronically absent**
2. This analysis gives Oregon its clearest picture yet of **the cost of a short school year and high absenteeism**

DEFINITIONS

1. **Chronic Absenteeism:** Missing > 10% of a school year (more than 3 weeks)
2. **Minimum vs. Average Instructional Time:** what the state requires vs. the average school year length
3. **Teacher Contract vs. Student Contact Time:** The time teachers are contracted to be working vs. the time that students are in school
4. **Instructional Time:** Different than student contact time, because of state defined allowances



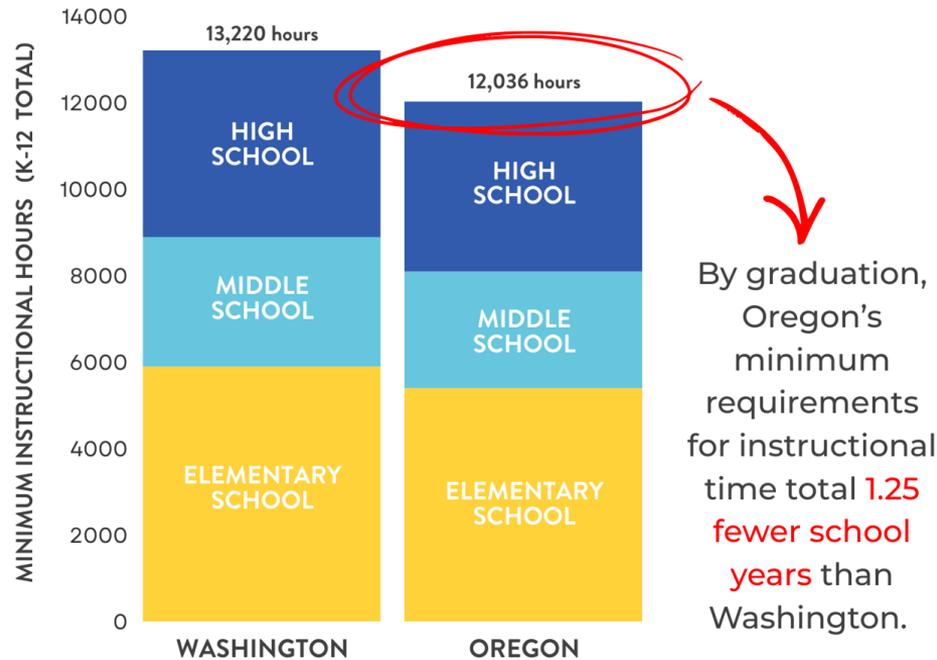
STUDY CONSIDERATIONS

1. It's a model – our best prediction based on existing research
2. Doesn't account for other investments we've made in early literacy
3. Assumes other states don't make additional gains or improvements

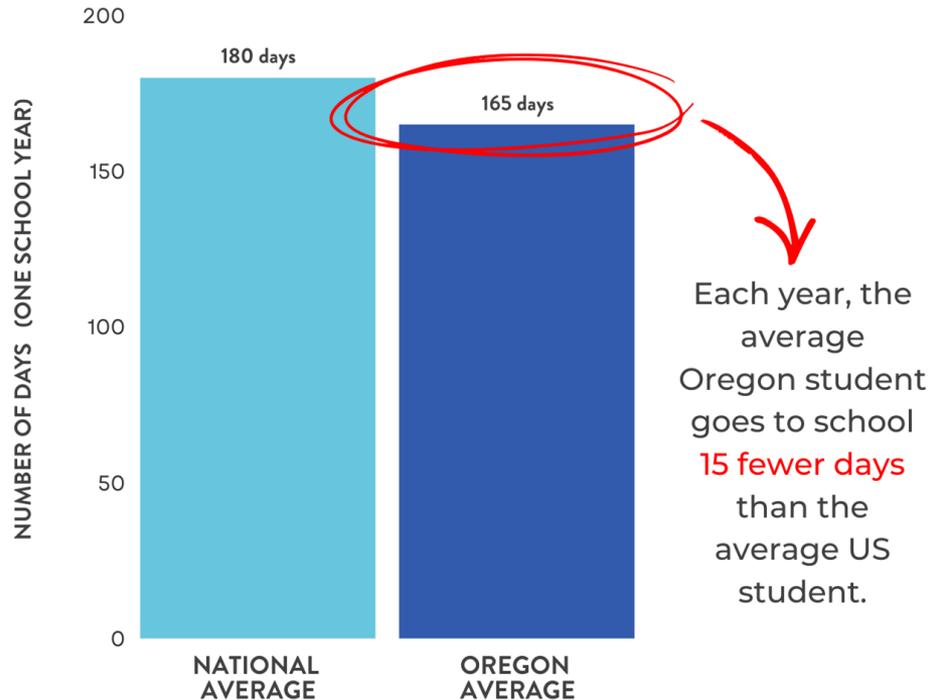


**STUDY
RESULTS**

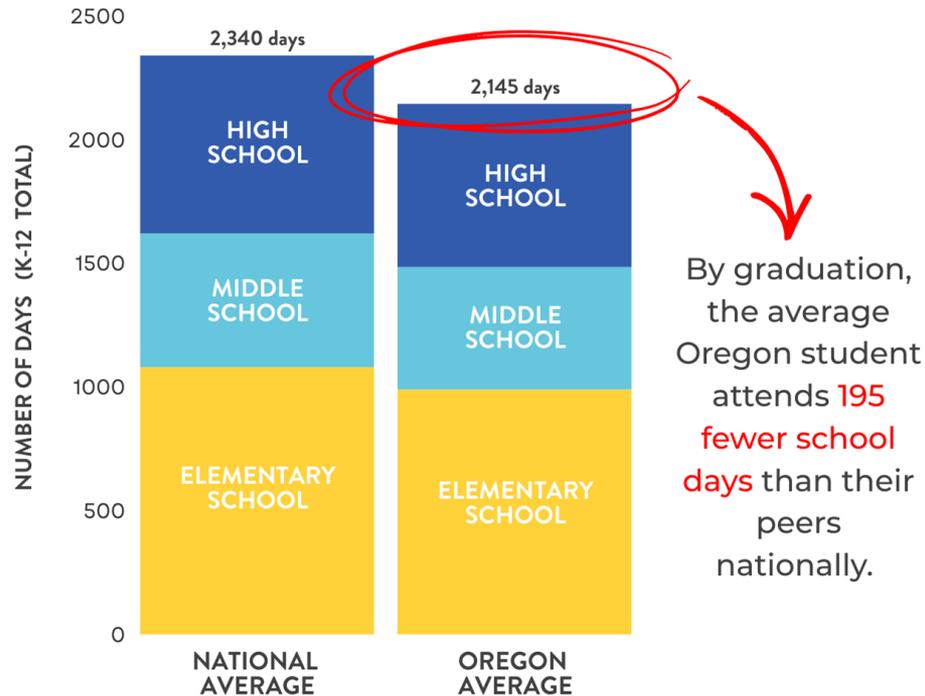
OREGON VS. WASHINGTON: INSTRUCTIONAL MINIMUMS



OREGON AVERAGE: RANKS 47TH IN THE NATION



LOW AVERAGES: LOST LEARNING TIME ADDS UP

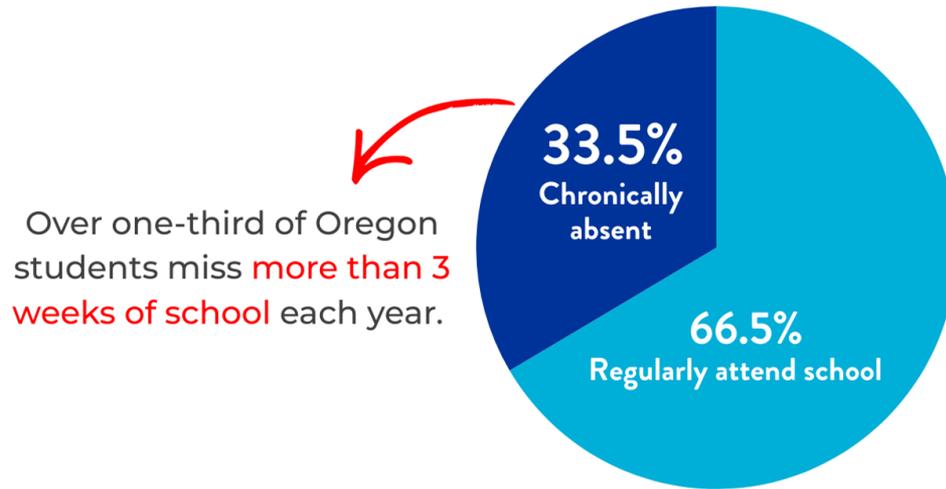


LOW FLOOR = LARGE DISPARITIES *WITHIN* OREGON

A child in one Oregon district could receive **1.4 fewer school years** *by fifth grade* than another simply because of their zip code.

By graduation, that difference can amount to **3 full school years.**

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM: OREGON RANKS 43 OUT OF 45 STATES



Over one-third of Oregon students miss **more than 3 weeks of school** each year.



Nearly 175,000 Oregon students are chronically absent.

That's about the population of Eugene, OR.

MODELING OREGON RANKINGS: LITERACY

If Oregon moved to a 180-day calendar
+ cut chronic absenteeism in half:

→ After 9 years, 8th grade
literacy NAEP rankings could
rise from **48th** to **6th** in the
nation.

MODELING OREGON RANKINGS: MATH

If Oregon moved to a **180-day calendar**
+ cut chronic absenteeism in half:

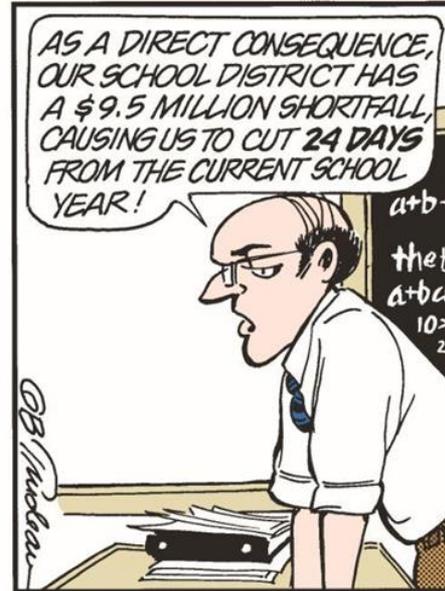
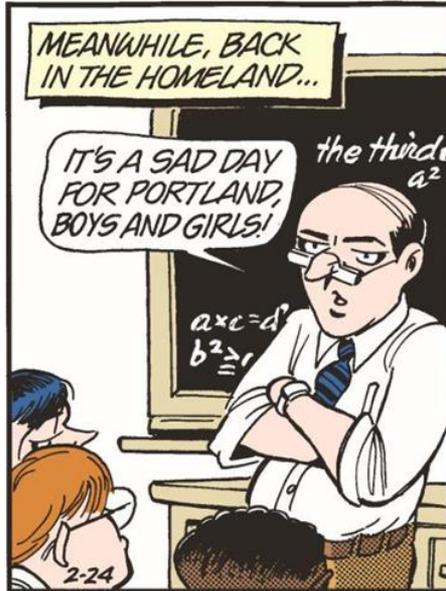
→ After 9 years, 8th grade math
NAEP rankings could rise from
49th to 25th in the nation.

ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM ALONE

→ Literacy rankings could rise to **13th** by 8th grade

→ Math rankings could rise to **32nd** by 8th grade

HOW OREGON GOT HERE



INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AROUND THE US.

“The most common way that states regulate instructional time is to set a minimum number of days for the school year; 38 states and the District of Columbia do so. The majority of those states (27 of 38), along with D.C., **mandate 180 instructional days, making it the closest thing the country has to a national norm.**”

-PEW Research

OREGON MINIMUM: INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

- Oregon does not have a required minimum number of days, only a minimum number of hours.
- 80% of all students at each school must be scheduled to receive annually the following minimum hours of instructional time.
 - K-8: 900 hours
 - 9-11: 990 hours
 - 12: 966 hours
- Oregon does not require a minimum school day length, in fact we are one of only two states that sets a maximum.

OREGON'S INSTRUCTIONAL TIME ALLOWANCES

- OAR 581-022-22320
- K-3 up to 60 hours of recess
- Up to 30 hours for staff professional development;
- Up to 30 hours for parent teacher conferences; and
- For the 2015–16 school year, up to 14 hours for emergency school closures due to adverse weather conditions and facilities failure.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME ALLOWANCES AROUND THE U.S.

- **14 states** allow for time that is not with students to be counted towards instructional time.
 - The majority of states **cap that at 5 days or less**
- Oregon has the **second largest allotment at 60 hours (appx 9.2 days)**
- The only comparable state is Alaska, which allows for 10 days of allowances
 - However, Alaska has a 180 day minimum requirement

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS



CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

1. The state & districts must **hold the line & not cut any more school days.**
2. **Pass & implement foundational attendance policies** (like HB 4154) and an attendance early warning system with communication home to families.
3. The state must ensure our **minimum instructional time** gives teachers the time they need to teach the standards, students the time they need to learn, and prevents disparities by zip code.