

NOTICES

OSAC Partners with ECMC to Help Students with Financial Aid and Scholarships

from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) and Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) have formed a partnership to provide financial aid information and the OSAC universal scholarship application to Oregon high schools, colleges, and community organizations.

ECMC's Opportunities booklet addresses college financial aid from both a national and local (Oregon) perspective. OSAC's Scholarship Application booklet includes a catalog of more than 340 different scholarship programs for which Oregon students might apply by using a single application form.

In October, high schools, colleges, and community organizations received a packet with sample copies of the

2007-08 OSAC Scholarship Application, the ECMC Opportunities booklet, and The Ford Family Foundation Scholarship poster and brochures.

The OSAC Web site - www.osac.state.or.us - has a link for ordering copies of these publications.

In addition to the OSAC scholarship application being available two months earlier, there are several other important changes to note:

- Boxes of applications will **not** be automatically sent to schools. Instructions for ordering quantities of applications came with the sample packets sent to all schools in mid-October.
- The application is available two

months earlier than usual to encourage students to begin their applications earlier. Students still must wait for their fall transcripts before sending their completed application packets to OSAC.

Students are encouraged to apply online at GetCollegeFunds.org but still must print out the entire application, sign it, and mail by either the early bird deadline of Feb. 15 or absolute deadline of March 1.

The standard essay questions required of all applicants have changed. There are four short essay questions to answer. The answers are submitted as part of the online application in text

field boxes. The activities chart also will be part of the electronic application.

The ECMC Opportunities booklet contains information to help high school students prepare for post-secondary education, choose a college, and apply for financial aid. The booklet includes information about college entrance examinations, test dates, admissions requirements, and costs for many Oregon schools.

Opportunities also covers financial aid issues such as filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as types and sources of federal and state aid, and eligibility criteria.

More information about these and other programs is available at www.osac.state.or.us.

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Better Test Scores

We have increased student state assessment test scores. The state requires that we test all students just as they do in all public schools. Siletz School was a failing school according to the No Child Left Behind Act prior to the school becoming a charter school.

Over the last three years, our students have shown increases in their test scores. Last year, SVS met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind Act.

The state Department of Education considered us a strong category school. Our test scores are some of the highest in the state. The test scores in reading, math, and science in the third, fifth, and eighth grades are used in the calculation for assessment purposes and an average of the grades is used to determine achievement.

Our scores for the 2005-2006 school year for students who met or exceeded their grade benchmarks in comparison to the LCSD and all other student test scores in the state are as follows:

Reading/Literature			
Grade	School (SVS)	District	State
3 rd Grade	95%	79%	79%
5 th Grade	100%	82%	83%
8 th Grade	80%	68%	66%
Composite	91.6%	79%	78.7%

Math			
Grade	School (SVS)	District	State
3 rd Grade	100%	88%	86%
5 th Grade	100%	82%	81%
8 th Grade	94%	62%	65%
Composite	98%	77.3%	77.3%

Science (Only Tested at the 5 th and 8 th Grades)			
Grade	School (SVS)	District	State
5 th Grade	100%	75%	80%
8 th Grade	100%	72%	68%
Composite	100%	72%	74%

Even though AYP is judged on third-, fifth-, and eighth-grade test scores, all students in the fourth, sixth, and seventh grades also are tested. This is referred to as off-year testing. Our students showed a high percentage that also met or exceeded state benchmarks.

Reading/Literature			
Grade	School (SVS)	District	State
4 th Grade	92.8%		
6 th Grade	95.4%		
7 th Grade	82.3%		
Composite	90.2%	Not Known Yet	Not Known Yet

Math

Grade	School (SVS)	District	State
4 th Grade	100%		
6 th Grade	90.9%		
7 th Grade	94.1%		
Composite	95%	Not Known Yet	Not Known Yet

Volunteers

We have a strong volunteer group. Our data shows an average of 300 hours of volunteer time was provided by 70 to 80 volunteers a month. They work in the classroom with teachers, provide tutoring to students, and perform non-academic duties.

One volunteer purchased and provided 2,700 free children's books to students over a three-year period. Community organizations like Little Chief Restaurant, Noel's Market, Siletz Gas & Mini-Mart, and Wilkison's Video provided free drinks, ice cream, and hot dogs for our Honor Roll and Student of the Month incentive program.

Volunteers were instrumental in the opening of the school in 2003. They cleaned and painted rooms, took out garbage, cleaned up the campus, and did whatever was necessary to get the school open that September.

High School Returns

Not being satisfied with just operating a K-8 school, the school board, with the help of the Tribal Education Department, submitted a grant to the state Department of Education for another implementation grant to open a high school.

Simultaneously, another grant was submitted to Antioch University Seattle for what is called an Early College Initiative. Both grant applications were successful and a new charter was negotiated with LCSD and approved for a charter high school.

Siletz Valley Early College Academy is three months old and has a student population of 60 in grades 9-12. Its main thrust is to prepare high school students for college enrollment.

Our partnership members, including Oregon State University, Antioch University Seattle, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, LCSD, Oregon Coast Community College, and the Siletz Tribe had a planning year to lay the foundation for the new high school.

The school has a blended program of face-to-face and online classes through OSU and a dual credit program with OCCC. An ambitious student could have a high school diploma and an AA degree after four years of school. This would result in a significant savings in college costs for a family.

The Siletz Valley Early College Academy gives the Siletz community a high school with a full sports program after being without one for 24 years.

The five-member Siletz Valley School Board has the responsibility of providing resources and establishing policy and procedures for the governance of both schools. Over the course of three years, it has worked effectively to make a positive difference for the community's children.

Through its leadership and commitment, it has successfully implemented and maintained the school's vision by facilitating and promoting participatory decision-making and a culture of school improvement.