

High school dropout rate is 6.7%

Oregon's high school dropout rate was 6.7% for the 1996-97 school year.

This is the first year under the new dropout definition written by the 1997 Legislature. Previously, dropouts included students who had obtained a GED certificate. Using the previous definition, the one year rate would be 7.5%, an increase over the 7.2% rate in 1995-96.

"We want to make it clear that the Legislature's redefinition has changed the rules," said State Schools Supt. Norma Paulus. "This is the ninth year we've reported dropout figures, but we need to treat it as a new benchmark for future comparisons."

Paulus called the dropout rate "the tip of the iceberg." There is a vast number of students who drop out 'mentally' but stay in school. They go through the motions of attending

school and are content to get a diploma with a c-minus average and enter the workforce grossly unprepared.

"The diploma is hardly a challenge for most students and they know it. That's why we set our new academic standards high and connected them to new certificates."

Beginning with this year's ninth graders, students who meet the higher academic standards will receive a Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM). "Colleges and businesses know the CIM packs much more weight than the diploma," Paulus added.

The most common reason dropouts gave for leaving school was that they found classes irrelevant. Eight high schools that reduced their dropout rates at least 4% said engaging students in relevant curriculum and

work experience is effective.

The schools are Redmond, Lebanon, Mazama, North Marion, North Salem, Sam Barlow, South Umpqua and Wilsonville.

Redmond principal Dan Purple credited school-to-work experiences and modern technology opportunities for slicing his school's dropout rate in half. "Our technology program includes modern labs in communication, manufacturing and engineering, transportation, construction, and natural resources. Over half of our students are enrolled in these programs that emphasize applied, hands-on, and project learning."

"You need to pay attention to lots of things including changing the school day," said Mike Kolb, principal of North Salem High School.

Benson High School Students Learn Job Skills Through Portland General Electric Mentor Program

Freshman and Sophomore Electrical students from Benson Polytechnic High School will tour Portland General Electric's Faraday Dam this Friday as part of a new technical education program.

The students will get a first hand look at PGE's power generating facility located in Estacada and have the opportunity to talk to employees about the technical skills needed to work in the electric utility industry.

The three year pilot program is a collaborative effort by Portland General Electric and Portland Public Schools' Professional Technical Education Department to educate

students in technical trade careers through employee mentor relationships and school-to-work experience.

"Educating the next generation of electrical workers is a win-win for everyone," said Al King, PGE Human Resource Specialist.

"The students develop skills and expertise that will prepare them for a rewarding profession and we benefit from having a well-trained workforce." Beginning in March, over PGE employees will visit the students on a monthly basis for job-related presentations and question and answer sessions. Students will also "job shadow" PGE employees from trade and non-trade professions

including: journeymen linemen, wiremen, meter readers, equipment operators, human resources professionals, customer service representatives and community resources specialists.

Additional site tours of PGE generation plants, substations and other electrical distribution facilities will be scheduled ever four to six weeks.

The program includes a four week internship at PGE corporate and field offices for Junior year electrical majors and a pre-apprenticeship training program for Seniors,

which could include part-time paid employment and school-to-work credit.

Enrollment at PCC at Steady Tick

As of the end of the fourth week of winter term, enrollment is up again at Portland Community College, the largest post secondary institution in Oregon. The full-time equivalent enrollment, which adds full and part time enrollments to get an equivalent full-time figure, is up 2.6% from winter term 1997.

The number of enrollments, or headcount, is up 2.5% from last fall. There are 30,666 students taking classes at PCC winter term.

The enrollment picture shows an

increase in lower-division classes, the courses that students take in order to transfer to four-year schools, up to 2.4% from the same time last year. It reverses a trend in the past several year of flat or dipping enrollments in these classes. There is also growth in enrollments in two year training programs, up 2.1% from last winter.

"The increase in transfer classes is the news," said Susan Bach, director of Institutional Research. "This area dipped in enrollments for several

years, even while our enrollments in technical and professional training programs increased slightly."

She added, "Overall, if you look at our enrollment for the last 20 years, we had a trough in the mid-80's and a comparable trough in the mid-90's. So, it looks like we were climbing up again."

By campus, at Sylvania, both the full-time-equivalent and the numbers of students taking classes are up 3.4 and 5.3% respectively from the same time last year. There are 11,277

students taking classes at Sylvania versus 10,712 last year.

At Rock Creek Campus, enrollment is up 5.3% in transfer classes, while professional and technical classes are down 2.5% from last winter. Headcount is up 3.7%; 4,769 students are taking winter term classes. At Cascade Campus, the enrollment in professional and technical courses has soared, up 10.5% from last year at the same time. However, transfer courses are down, 3.1% from last year at

the same time. There are 3,723 students taking classes winter term versus 3,333 last winter, a solid 11.7% increase. PCC's Open Campus, which offers continuing and lifelong learning classes in community locations throughout the metro area, shows an increase in full time equivalent enrollments, up 2.6% from last year at the same time. Headcount has dropped very slightly, 0.7%. There are 14,942 students taking classes through the Open Campus this winter.



Photo credit: NFL Photos
Eddie Robinson, Head Football Coach of Gambling State University, is retiring after this season. He was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as the all-time winningest coach.

PHILLY CAFE

445 N.E. KILLINGSWORTH
288-9367

- ☛ Fish & Chips
- ☛ Teriyaki Chicken & Beef
- ☛ Hamburgers

MONDAY - SATURDAY, 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
SUNDAY, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

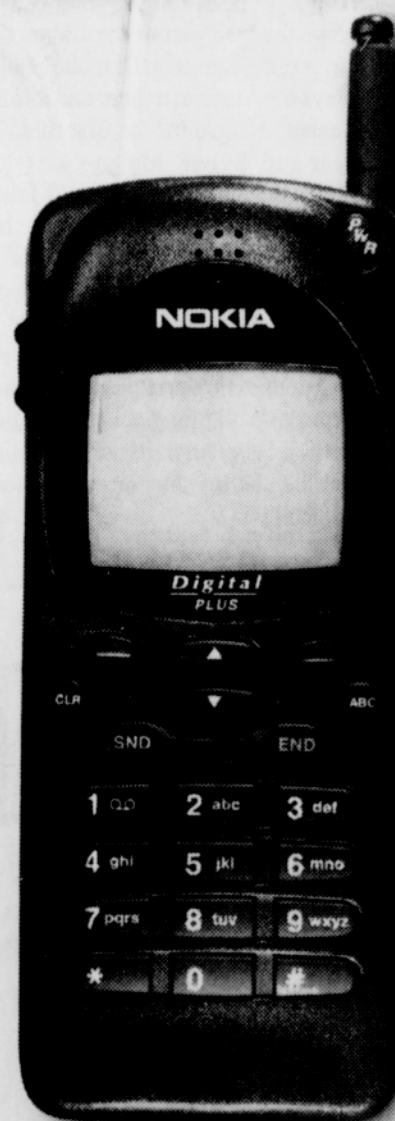


STEWART GROUP REALTY

*"A Growing Company Committed
To A Growing Community"*

Fax: 289-3435
E-Mail: fred@sgrealty.com
289-4970

How do AT&T Digital PCS customers automatically get more free minutes, free holidays, and a flat rate day and night?



They press here.

Getting these new benefits with AT&T Digital PCS service is as easy as turning on your phone.

Now every AT&T Digital PCS customer gets more included minutes on every calling plan, free local calls on nine holidays, no peak or off-peak charges, and wireless long distance for just 15¢ a minute. Automatically. And, like always, you get nine Western states with no roaming charges. All on the largest digital wireless network in North America. The best part is, you don't have to shop around to get a better deal. You've already got it. Of course, if you don't have AT&T Digital PCS yet, you may be interested in doing some shopping. So we included a list of locations. Right down there, see?

1 800-IMAGINE® It's all within your reach.



AT&T Stores

THE DALLES
1246 W. 6th Street
(In Cascade Square Mall,
next to Albertson's)
541 296-8420
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

EUGENE
1125-B Valley River Dr.
(Just across from
Valley River Center)
541 484-2355
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

GRESHAM
2454 SE Burnside
(In Gresham Village Shopping
Center, behind Starbucks)
503 667-0296
M-Sat. 9AM-6PM

LONGVIEW
1105 15th Ave., Suite E
(Just north of St. John's Hospital,
15th and Florida)
360 414-8200
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

MEDFORD
1314 Center Drive, Suite D
(In Harry and David
Country Village)
541 770-7000
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

PORTLAND
9728 SE Washington St.
(In Plaza 205)
503 306-6299
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

PORTLAND
9220 SW Barbur Blvd.
(3 blocks north of Tri-Met
Transit Center)
503 306-6249
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

PORTLAND
1600 SW Fourth Ave.
(4th & Market, near
Civic Auditorium)
503 306-6298
M-F 9AM - 6PM
Sat. Closed

SALEM
200 Hawthorne SE, Suite A-160
(1/4 mile north of Costco)
503 371-8888
M-F 8AM - 6PM
Sat. 10AM - 4PM

TANASBOURNE
2711 NW Town Center Dr., Suite 3
(Off Hwy. 26 on 185th)
503 531-2557
M-Sat. 9AM - 6PM

AT&T Satellite Stores

ROGUE VALLEY MALL
Medford - 541 608-7847

THREE RIVERS MALL
Kelso - 360 430-4288

VALLEY RIVER MALL
Eugene - 541 683-9676

WAL MART
Cottage Grove - 541 767-0313
Dallas - 503 881-1037
Eugene - 541 767-0313
Portland - 503 816-8609
Salem North - 503 881-1047
Salem South - 503 881-1048
Woodburn - 503 881-1046

CALL FOR HOURS

