

State plans broader rating system for schools

By **BETSY HAMMOND**
The Oregonian/OregonLive

PORTLAND — Oregon intends to shift how it evaluates schools and intervenes in those with the poorest results, moving from the rigid model required under No Child Left Behind to a more nuanced approach shaped by Oregonians.

State leaders plan to make that official this week when they submit their 136-page plan to the federal education department.

Under the new approach, beginning with results from the current school year, Oregon schools' performance will be judged on a wider array of factors than reading and math scores and graduation rates alone.

State officials express optimism that the switch will make a positive difference for students.

"This extends the promise of a well-rounded education," state schools chief Salam Noor told *The Oregonian/OregonLive* in an interview Monday. "All over Oregon, we hear that's what parents and students want... This is an opportunity to think about education as a local endeavor."

Technically, the rules won't change all that dramatically. Schools still will be judged on statistical outcomes for students, including standardized test scores, not by a more subjective judgment about which schools are offering a truly well-rounded education.

But Noor and other Oregon Department of Education leaders say they'll combine new messages about what's important and new flexibility granted by the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, to drive more emphasis on science, social studies, career-technical education and the arts.

It remains to be seen whether a new era of well-rounded education will in fact emerge. Students' performance on state reading, writing and math exams, and their growth over time as measured by those tests, will still count more heavily than any other factor in a school's rating. And most Oregon schools have a very long way to go to get all or nearly all their students to show mastery on those tests.

But under the new approach, schools will face demands to do other things well. Their ratings also will hinge on getting students to attend regularly and, for high schools, ensuring that freshmen earn six credits by the start of sophomore year — the two strongest factors determining whether a student is likely to make it to high school graduation.

Schools' performance will also be judged on English language acquisition by their non-native speakers and on graduation rates.

And, thanks to Oregon's senior U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's influence on the new law, any high school that fails to graduate at least 67 percent of its students in four years will automatically be in line for



Parents and students fill out paperwork in their classroom during an open house in September 2016 at the new Washington Elementary School in Pendleton.

state help. For the class of 2016, about 55 alternative high schools and 16 regular high schools, including Portland's Roosevelt High, hit that trigger level.

Unlike with the widely unpopular No Child Left Behind law, which governed the way U.S. schools were rated for more than a decade, a school won't come under fire for a singular failed result with a single student population.

But the federal law still requires the state to release key school performance measures for numerous student populations, including racial and ethnic groups, low-income students, students with disabilities and students learning English as a second language.

And schools that show high performance overall but have one or more student groups struggling badly in many areas will be singled out for extra state attention. Unlike under No Child Left Behind, that consequence will apply to all schools, not just those that receive federal Title I money to help disadvantaged students.

"We will be putting a priority on advancing equity in Oregon," Noor said. "This (federal education) law is a civil rights law."

State officials say they're also excited about a big change Oregon will make in the way it holds schools accountable and helps low-performing ones get better. Instead of working directly with individual schools, the state will work with school districts to assist them with turning around their problem schools.

Trying to fix a school without pulling bigger levers throughout the school district too often meant a school didn't improve or a turnaround didn't persist, said Dawne Huckaby, assistant state superintendent for teaching, learning and assessment.

"This changes our role," she said. "We will be supporting districts who will be supporting their schools."

Schools whose performance places them in the bottom 5 percent statewide among schools that receive Title I aid statewide will be tentatively identified late this summer based on test scores, chronic absenteeism rates, English language learners' progress and ninth-grade success rates. High schools with graduation rates below 68 percent will also be singled out.

The final list of schools that fall into the lowest 5 percent or have unacceptably low graduation rates will be made in summer 2018, using results from the 2017-2018 school year and class of 2017 graduation rates.

Working with their school districts, those schools will have to evaluate where they aren't meeting their students' needs and make a plan to fix that. They will be watched over by the state as they carry out those plans in from 2018 to 2021. Those that aren't making enough progress along the way will get added pressure and help from the state.

In scores of public hearings and specially convened meetings, Oregon teachers, parents, employers and child advocates said they want Oregon schools to be judged holistically, not on standardized statistical outputs.

Oregon Department of Education officials pushed back against throwing measurements of the richness of a school's curricular offerings or the health of its social/emotional climate into the ratings equation because there is no reliable way to objectively measure those characteristics.

But they did agree to create a space on schools' official state performance reports for district officials to provide a short narrative about such offerings as arts education, career-tech instruction, library services and after-school programs. And they say they will continue to explore ways to add more nuance to the state's school rating systems.

Former official sues lottery for \$2.75M

Alleges retaliation for reporting management issues

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A former Oregon Lottery official is suing the lottery commission and the lottery's director and CFO, claiming they retaliated against him for raising the alarm about management issues at the agency.

Trinh Tran, a lawyer who worked as a contracts and procurement officer for the agency, filed suit against the lottery commission, director Barry Pack and CFO Kathy Ortega in Multnomah County Circuit Court April 17 seeking \$2.75 million.

Tran alleges Pack retaliated against him for reporting management issues to the lottery commission, another lottery employee and to governor's staff; and that lottery officials violated his privacy when they initiated an investigation of him by the state's attorney general.

Tran also claims Ortega, who was also Tran's supervisor, violated his Fourth Amendment rights by accessing his work computer and emails.

According to the lawsuit, Tran first voiced concerns about "mismanagement and abuse of authority" to a lottery commissioner, Liz Carle, in March 2016, and then the next month, to two employees at the lottery including his direct supervisor. He also mentioned his concerns to Heidi Moawad, Gov. Kate Brown's lottery adviser.

In what the lawsuit characterizes as "apparent retaliation" against two commissioners who inquired about management issues at the agency,

then-Director Jack Roberts drafted, but did not submit, a Bureau of Labor and Industries complaint against them, and placed on administrative leave another employee who reported management problems to the Governor's Office.

Roberts was removed from his position in late April of 2016, and Barry Pack was named acting director. Pack announced a personnel investigation by the state Department of Justice against the deputy director, Roland Ipparraguirre, and started an investigation against the two commissioners that was based on Roberts' draft BOLI complaint.

Those two commissioners, Mary Wheat and Liz Carle, resigned from the commission after the lottery announced the allegations against them were "baseless."

The lawsuit alleges Pack falsely claimed Tran's employees complained about him, and that Pack started a DOJ investigation of Tran, which found "no evidence of inappropriate conduct or violations of policy," the lawsuit states.

After DOJ concluded its investigation, the lawsuit claims, Pack and Ortega reduced Tran's responsibilities, excluded him from meetings, and wrote a work plan that the lawsuit characterized as a step in the disciplinary process and a warning of possible dismissal.

Tran resigned from the lottery in October.

The lawsuit also claims Brown and her office "either authorized or were aware of and acquiesced in defendant Pack's ... retaliatory actions" against Tran and other employees who blew the whistle.

A spokeswoman for the lottery declined Wednesday to comment on the lawsuit.

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2017, EO Media Group

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny and very warm	Cooler with a heavy thunderstorm	Cooler; a few morning showers	Partial sunshine	Mostly sunny and nice
86° 61°	65° 44°	57° 44°	66° 45°	71° 48°
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
90° 61°	71° 46°	64° 46°	72° 47°	77° 50°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
90° 61°	71° 46°	64° 46°	72° 47°	77° 50°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	50°
Normals	67°	43°
Records	94° (1900)	25° (1897)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.10"
Year to date 8.21"
Last year to date 4.35"
Normal year to date 5.21"

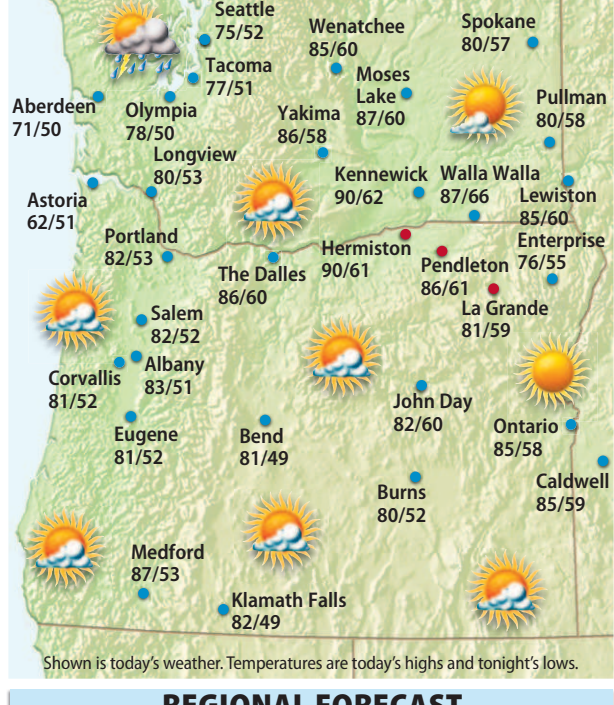
HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	80°	55°
Normals	70°	43°
Records	92° (2016)	28° (1928)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.12"
Year to date 5.88"
Last year to date 2.98"
Normal year to date 4.11"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:38 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:06 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:56 p.m.
Moonset today	3:01 a.m.



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: A shower or two across the north today; partly sunny in central parts. Clouds, then sun in the south.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Sunshine and patchy clouds today; a thunderstorm in spots near the Cascades.
Western Washington: A strong thunderstorm across the south today; showers around at the coast. A thunderstorm in central parts.
Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. A shower or thunderstorm in spots tonight.
Cascades: Very warm today with a strong thunderstorm.
Northern California: A thunderstorm in spots in central parts today; clouds, then sun at the coast. Mostly sunny in the interior mountains.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	62	51	sh	55	41	c
Baker City	78	51	s	70	40	t
Bend	81	49	t	60	32	t
Brookings	63	49	pc	55	44	sh
Burns	80	52	s	71	39	t
Enterprise	76	55	s	68	41	t
Eugene	81	52	t	59	39	sh
Heppner	84	57	t	66	40	t
Hermiston	90	61	pc	71	46	t
John Day	82	60	pc	69	38	t
Klamath Falls	82	49	pc	62	36	t
La Grande	81	59	s	67	41	t
Meacham	79	57	s	64	38	t
Medford	87	53	t	60	42	sh
Newport	59	49	pc	54	41	sh
North Bend	62	50	pc	55	44	sh
Ontario	85	58	s	83	50	t
Pasco	89	59	pc	75	47	t
Pendleton	86	61	pc	65	44	t
Portland	82	53	t	60	43	sh
Redmond	85	50	t	63	32	t
Salem	82	52	t	59	40	sh
Spokane	80	57	s	68	44	t
Ukiah	81	54	pc	63	37	t
Vancouver	83	53	t	58	41	sh
Walla Walla	87	66	s	72	48	t
Yakima	86	58	pc	74	43	t

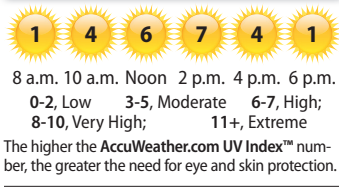
WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	80	55	s	70	47	pc
Hong Kong	84	76	t	83	75	pc
Jerusalem	71	53	s	72	54	s
London	58	48	c	58	49	c
Mexico City	78	55	pc	73	53	pc
Moscow	51	30	pc	55	43	pc
Paris	63	46	sh	66	51	pc
Rome	68	52	pc	70	52	s
Seoul	80	57	pc	77	51	pc
Sydney	70	57	pc	71	57	pc
Tokyo	70	61	c	71	62	pc

WINDS

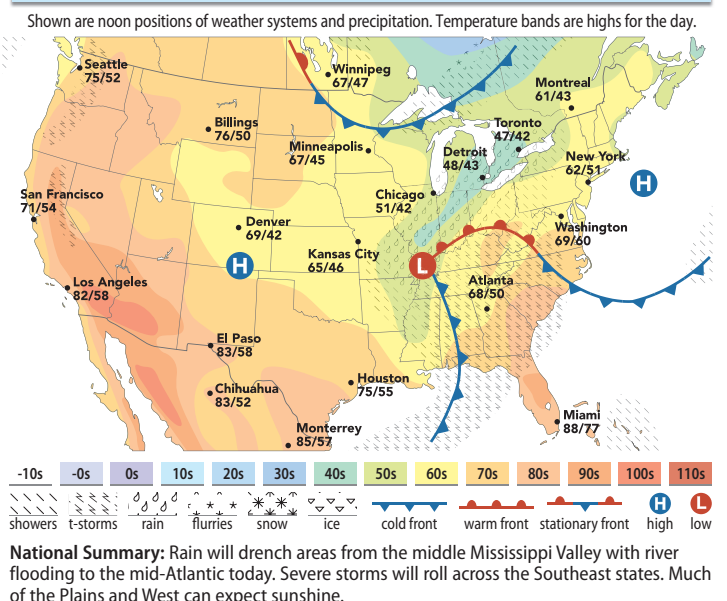
(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NE 4-8	W 10-20
Pendleton	ESE 6-12	W 8-16

UV INDEX TODAY



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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



National Summary: Rain will drench areas from the middle Mississippi Valley with river flooding to the mid-Atlantic today. Severe storms will roll across the Southeast states. Much of the Plains and West can expect sunshine.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 105° in Thermal, Calif. **Low 16°** in Aspen Springs, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	77	52	s	84	57	s	Louisville	66	51	t	58	44	sh
Atlanta	68	50	pc	56	48	pc	Memphis	56	46	sh	63	46	pc
Atlanta City	60	53	pc	64	57	t	Miami	88	77	pc	89	69	t
Baltimore	66	56	pc	73	52	t	Millwaukee	53	41	pc	55	41	pc
Billings	76	50	s	83	53	s	Minneapolis	67	45	s	73	47	s
Birmingham	67	48	t	57	46	sh	Nashville	68	47	t	56	44	sh
Boise	85	61	s	83	49	c	New Orleans	67	54	c	74	55	s
Boston	57	45	s	54	42	s	New York City	62	41	pc	64	56	r
Charleston, SC	82	61	t	72	52	r	Oklahoma City	69	56	pc	72	46	sh
Charleston, WV	72	54	t	64	44	r	Omaha	69	44	s	73	50	s
Chicago	51	42	r	57	41	pc	Philadelphia	66	53	pc	70	54	r
Cleveland	62	55	r	64	43	r	Phoenix	102	74	s	105	76	s
Dallas	75	53	r	79	54	s	Portland, ME	59	40	s	51	45	r
Denver	69	42	s	77	49	s	Providence	61	45	s	59	56	r
Detroit	48	43	r	49	40	r	Raleigh	78	63	pc	73	51	r
El Paso	83	58	pc	91	65	s	Rapid City	70	44	s	77	47	pc
Fairbanks	60	36	s	59	35	pc	Reno	86	59	pc	77	49	pc
Fargo	73	44	s	79	42	s	Sacramento	88	56	s	75	50	pc
Honolulu	84	74	s	84	73	sh	St. Louis	52	46	pc	67	50	pc
Houston	75	55	s	80	53	s	Salt Lake City	76	55	s	85	63	pc
Indianapolis	56	46	r	53	39	sh	San Diego	73	62	pc	71	61	