

# TELL survey shows little mentorship, a positive teacher outlook at SLSD

By Caitlyn May  
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New teachers at South Lane School District fall behind state averages in regards to mentorship but the majority of educators in the area plan to continue teaching at their current schools. This, according to the 2018 TELL survey released earlier this week.

The survey, which stands for Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning, is nationally recognized and attempts to quantify the experiences of educators at a local level. In South Lane, 76 percent of teachers took part in the survey compared to 54 percent overall

across the state.

The survey is broken into several subjects including new teacher support, instructional practices and school leadership. According to the data, South Lane measures up nearly exactly with responses from across the state—SLSD and the state average for years the respondents spent as an educator were 37 percent—but it differs on a handful of issues.

When asked if they felt they needed more professional development for English language learners, 59 percent of SLSD educators gave an affirmative answer. The statewide average was 49 percent. Educators at SLSD also felt they needed ad-

ditional development for “culturally responsive curriculum,” (53 percent) while the state average was 47 percent.

While the survey lists 26 percent of the 76 percent of respondents as teachers in their first two years of teaching, less than half said they were formally assigned a mentor (47 percent). Statewide, 79 percent of new teachers said they were assigned mentors.

South Lane teachers think their classroom sizes are manageable, according to the data and that the district minimizes routine paperwork for its staff. They also note that they have time to collaborate with colleagues (53 percent agree with

the statement) but when asked how much time is permitted for collaboration during the school day, 60 percent of SLSD staff said it was less than an hour. At Cottage Grove High School, 80 percent of respondents said they also spent less than an hour on collaboration. Statewide it was 46 percent.

When asked if their immediate plans for the future included continuing to teach at their current school, stay in the district at a different school, move to another district or leave education, 89 percent of SLSD faculty said they planned to continue at their current school.

For complete results of the survey, visit [telloregon.org](http://telloregon.org).

## Board moves in on interim super

By Zach Silva  
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At Monday night’s school-board meeting, the board grew one step closer to hiring an interim superintendent for the South Lane School District.

“Since the last meeting, Tammy (Hodgkinson) and I made the phone calls to the reference checks and received very positive responses for the candidate we’re considering,” said board chair Alan Baas. “We are now moving into the contract negotiation with that candidate and we will formally announce that at the next meeting.”

The board has settled on one candidate they are interested in and had plans to negotiate the contract on Monday April 30.

In the open session of the meeting, the board discussed the various details of the interim superintendent contract. The board reached an agreement on a contract that has been run by the board’s lawyers and South Lane Director of Human Resources Brian McCasline. The board discussed various ranges to provide and agreed on salary falling between \$130,000-\$135,000 with between 10 and 15 vacation days.

“We’re not going to be able to hire a superintendent next year for this much money. We’re going to have to be in the \$150,000s or \$160,000s. So, this might seem like a bargain in a year,” said Vice

Chair Sherry Duerst-Higgins.

Steve Kelley, the Oregon School Board Association member that has helped the district through the interim process, noted that according to his numbers, this is in line with the salary of superintendents of similar sizes.

“For what it’s worth, I’m very excited about your choice, about your possibilities,” said Kelley.

The interim superintendent is scheduled to begin work officially in August, but the board expressed interest in inviting their candidate to local events within the district as soon as next week if contract negotiations go well.

The board also got into discussions about the process of hiring their long-term superintendent. The initial plan was to have community discussions about qualities and qualifications in the spring but, under the recommendation of Kelley, the board agreed to move those to October.

“Being the end of school I always worry (about participation). And I would love to get people’s attention in October and saying, okay, we’re starting this process and we want you to be involved and we want you to be involved all along the way,” said Kelley.

The tentative plan is to have conversations next fall with community members, staff, administrators and “key communicators in the city” at various times to include as many people in the conversation as possible.

### TELL SURVEY RESULTS

63 percent said teachers were recognized as education experts (59 percent statewide).

59 percent said they had access to instructional material (53 percent statewide).

49 percent said they were encouraged to participate in school leadership roles (57 percent statewide).

74 percent said they thought the district was responsive to concerns about leadership issues (60 percent statewide).

63 percent thought the school’s curriculum is aligned with state standards (62 percent statewide).

54 percent said teachers were encouraged to try new things to improve instruction (60 percent statewide).

59 percent said teachers knew what students learned in each of their classes (55 percent statewide).

52 percent said they spent less than one hour a day addressing student discipline (46 percent statewide).

\*Percentages include "agree" and "disagree" responses, not "strongly" agree or disagree.

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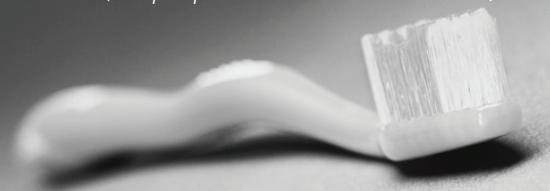
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