



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

The Oregon Department of Education released 2015-16 district and school report cards on Thursday. The state intends to revise the report format starting in fall 2018.

State issues school report cards

No overall ratings issued as format changes are to come

Itemizer-Observer staff report

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Education released the 2015-16 school and district report cards Thursday, but offered no overall rating for schools.

The reports contain a wealth of other information about student demographics and performance.

This is the second year the state hasn't provided school ratings, this time because of the state's intention to redesign the report card in response to new federal education guidelines under Every Student Succeeds Act. ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind.

According to state officials, the new law allows for more flexibility at the local level to support school needs.

In response, educators and parents have asked for report cards that go beyond test scores and reflects areas in which schools are doing

well and others that need improvement, an ODE press release stated.

In 2014-15, the state didn't offer ratings because of the switch to the new statewide assessment, Smarter Balanced tests.

The 2015-16 reports have detailed information about school and district enrollment, assessment performance, graduation rates, class size and teacher proficiency.

Reports list the amount of money spent per student in each district and at the state level.

The report also compares school district graduation rates, completer rates, and rates at which freshmen are considered on track to graduation on time with similar districts.

Each school is issued a report card, with an introduction from the school's principal.

District-level report cards look at overall statistics.

There are more than 1,200 schools in the state within 197 districts.

State educators are asking stakeholders for feedback on the report card redesign "to understand which school success measures will help them communicate with families and communities while supporting a system of continuous improvement."

"The Oregon Department of Education is working to ensure that Oregon's school and district report cards are redesigned to provide families and communities with more comprehensive measures of school quality, enhancing academic data with non-academic indicators, like school climate and equity," said Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor.

The redesigned report card is expected to be introduced by the fall of 2018.

See school and district report cards online at www.polkio.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

Western Oregon to make early financial aid awards

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon University will make estimated financial aid awards for the 2017-18 academic year available in December for prospective freshmen and transfer students.

The timeline will allow incoming WOU students more time to receive and understand their financial aid if they chose to attend Western Oregon.

Free Application for Financial Student Aid can be submitted as early as Oct. 1, three months earlier than the traditional Jan. 1 filing date.

DHS counselor earns Safe Schools Award

DALLAS — Dallas High School counselor Dana Goodale will receive an Oregon Safe Schools & Communities Coalition "Safe Schools Award" on Saturday for her work with DHS's Gay-Straight Alliance club.

The GSA has been at the high school since the 2013-14 school year and was formed after a student approached Goodale with a suggestion that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students needed the group. She agreed to be the GSA's staff advisor.

The group meets weekly and has about 20 to 25 students show up each week, Goodale said.

She was nominated by AJ Mendoza, with LGBTQ advocacy organization Basic Rights Oregon.

Oregon Safe Schools & Communities Coalition will present the award during a ceremony at Lewis & Clark College on Saturday.

DHS robotics looking for match volunteers

DALLAS — Local robotics tournaments are looking for volunteer judges or referees for upcoming tournaments in the area.

Dallas High School Robotics coach Lee Jones is asking for engineers — or other business owners who might want to hire students with skills learned through robotics — to volunteer at a number of tournaments in the area. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

To see dates and sign up for local tournaments, including two hosted by Dallas High School, look for a link on the *Itemizer-Observer's* website: www.polkio.com.

For more information: lee.jones@dsd2.org.

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