

OREGON ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION EQUITY (OAE)

OUR VISION: OREGON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER ALLIES ARE UNITED TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOLS PROMOTE EQUITY, ELIMINATE DISPARITIES, AND VALUE DIVERSITY SO THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE PREPARED TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL ADULTS.

The Oregon Alliance for Education Equity is a non-partisan coalition of community organizations that represent communities of color, English Language Learners (ELLs), education advocates, families/parents, allies and other stakeholders. We are united to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in education and ensure that students of color and students learning English graduate from high school prepared to be successful adults and global citizens. We educate, advocate, and engage with decision-makers to support policy changes that promote equity for students in and out of school.

OREGON'S STUDENT BODY IS CHANGING

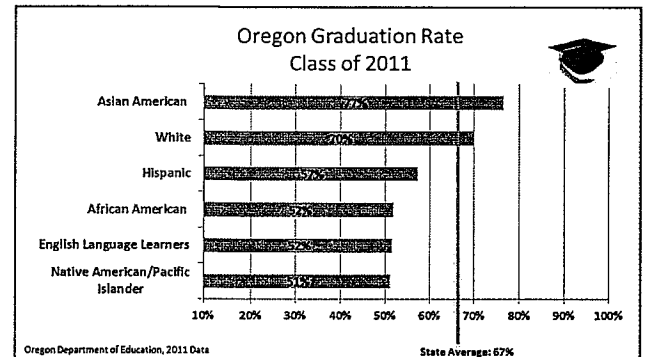
- According to ODE, students of color comprised 16.3% (88,196) public school enrollment in 1997. Today, students of color make up about 33.7% (189,134) enrollment.
- Half of Oregon's 561,000 public school students qualify for free and reduced lunch, compared to 30% in 1997 (ODE).

OREGON IS BEHIND OTHER STATES

- Oregon is one of seven states where the NAEP score gap between higher and lower-income students widened from 2003 to 2011.

OREGON STUDENTS ARE NOT GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL PREPARED OR WITH ACCESS TO COLLEGE

- According to state data, among African American, Native American and ELL students, only half graduated on time with a regular diploma in 2010.



We'll feel confident that elected and appointed leaders are addressing these important issues when we see:

- **A consistent effort to close the achievement gap.** English Language Learners, students of color, and low-income students account for an increasing share of Oregon children. Therefore, Oregon needs a targeted strategy to reach these students by having cohesive and culturally-appropriate research-based early learning opportunities, a plan for closing the achievement gap in k-12 schools and improving college access and completion.
- **A clear plan for identifying and Aiding the lowest performing schools and districts.** By having comprehensive information about low performing schools, community partners and parents can play a critical role in helping to make improvements and engaging in turnaround plans and action.
- **An excellent system of support for principals and teachers.** Any effort to better prepare students for college depends on the interactions teachers and principals have with students on a daily basis. Teachers who work with historically underserved children need additional time and resources to help their students make the significant learning gains they need.
- **Cultivate a diverse workforce:** According to the Oregon State Report Card, only 8.4% of our teachers are minorities while 33.7% of our students are racial minorities. As our minority student population grows, it is essential to make concerted efforts to train, hire and retain teachers of color.
- **Recognition that successful education includes both in and out of school time.** We must make sure that our resources include the wraparound services necessary to support the whole child's ability to function as a ready learner. And meaningful and effective parental/community/school partnerships become the norm in Oregon.
- **A commitment to keep students in school and to find alternatives to suspension and expulsion.** Distressing new federal data and Oregon Department of Education data show that there are racial disparities in school discipline. In order for students to be successful, it is essential that we keep students in the classroom learning.

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE OAE, ARE READY TO HELP AND BE COUNTED AS MEANINGFUL PARTNERS IN ACKNOWLEDGING INEQUALITIES AND FINDING SOLUTIONS

Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality, APANO, NAACP Branches from Salem-Keizer, Corvallis, & Eugene/Springfield, Centro Cultural of Washington County, Latino Network of Portland, Portland Urban League, Unete from Medford, Stand for Children, Chalkboard Project, REAP Inc., Portland Teachers Program, Oregon Native American 9 Tribal Governments, Oregon Indian Education Association, Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County, Siwash Resources, Adelanto Mujeres, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs & ACLU of Oregon

Supported in Principle By:

National Council of La Raza, Education Trust, Oregon Commissions on Hispanic, and Asian Affairs, Self Enhancement Inc., Oregon Diversity Institute, Latinos In Leadership from Reynolds, Portland Parent Union, BPI, & Si Se Puede Oregon, Una Voz Coalition from Jackson County, Blacks In Government, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Mano a Mano Family Center, Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), PCUN, & CAUSA.