



**OREGON YOUTH  
REENGAGEMENT  
COALITION**

# Re-engaging Oregon's Out-of-School Youth

April 20, 2017  
Oregon State Capitol Building  
Salem, Oregon

Pam Blumenthal  
Portland Community College



# An Equitable Future

*We want Oregon to be a place where all young people have an opportunity to pursue the education that fits their needs and their aspirations.*



## Nick Mathern

### Gateway to College National Network



# Oregon Can Be a Leader



- Oregon has a strong foundation for innovation in alternative education
- Our stubbornly low graduation rate is a call to action to bring back our youth
- We have an opportunity to select the “best of” other states reengagement policies



Alexander McPherson

Marylhurst University

Student

Portland Community College

Alum & Employee



# The Need in Oregon

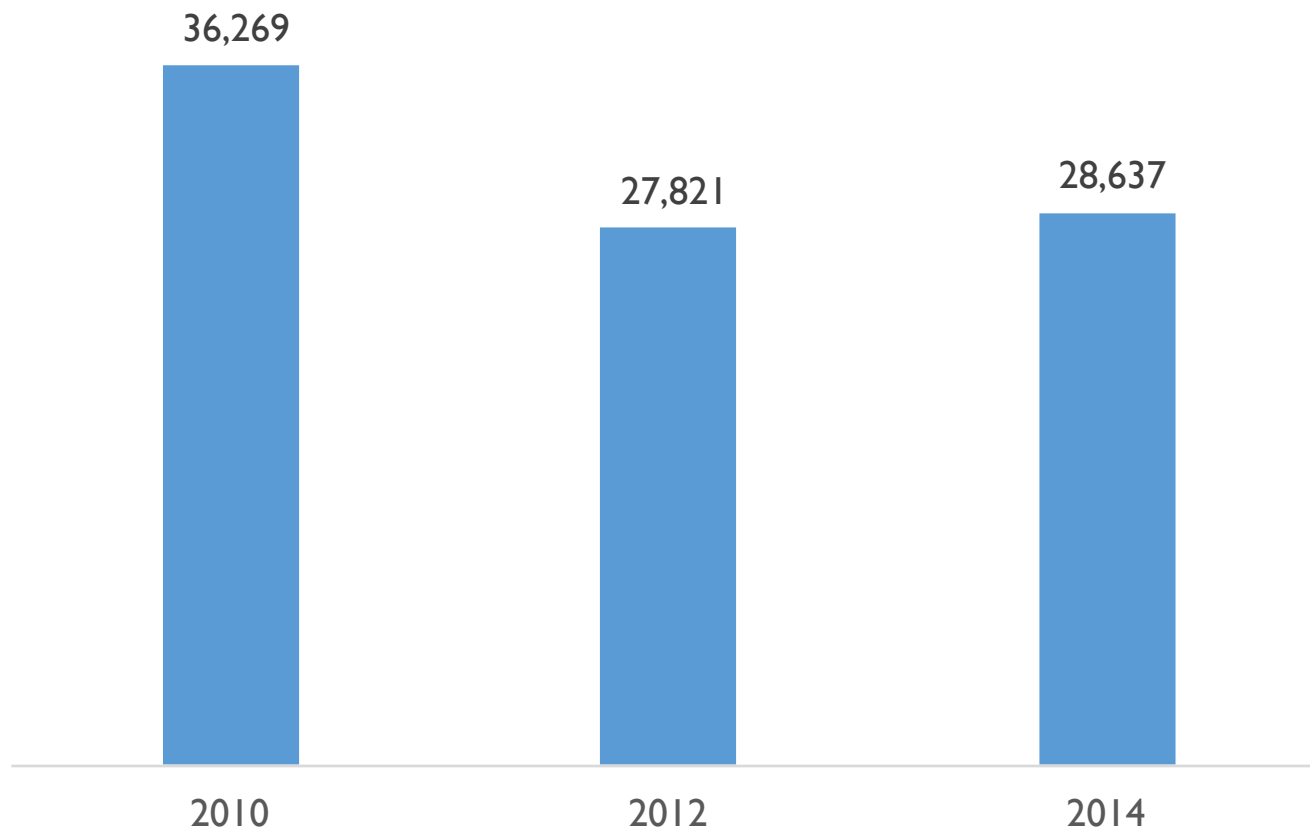


Bill T. Hansell

**YOUTH & YOU**  
Oregon Youth Development Council



# Oregon youth age 16 - 21 not in school with no HS completion or equivalent

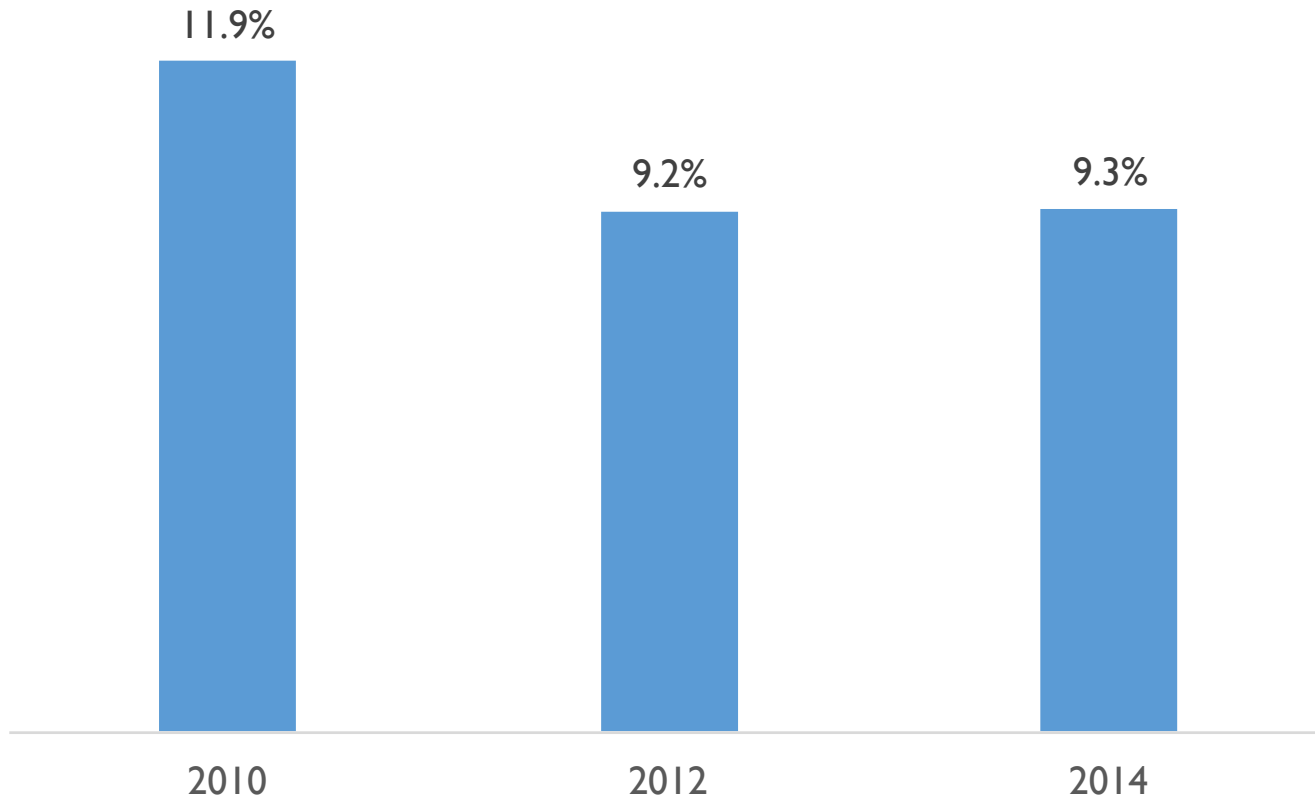


Source: US Census ACS PUMS 1-year, 2014





# Share of all Oregon youth age 16 - 21 not in school with no HS completion or equivalent



Source: US Census ACS PUMS 1-year, 2014



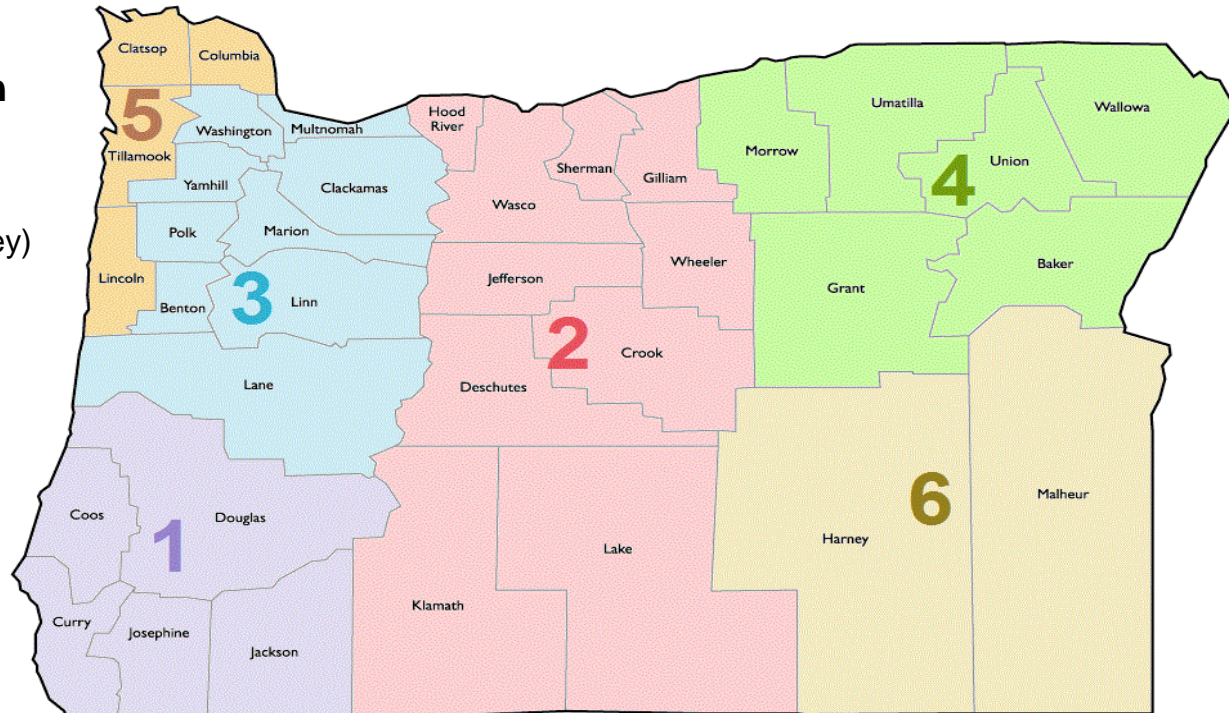
# Oregon High School Dropout Rates

## Dropout Rates by County

- The range is a high of 52.46% (Wheeler) to a low of .73% (Wallowa)

## Dropout Rates by Region

- 5.19% (Southern)
- 4.58% (Central)
- 3.66% (Willamette Valley)
- 3.29% (North Eastern)
- 3.97% (North Coast)
- 2.65% (South Eastern)



## Dropout Rates by East/West

- East of the Cascades is 4.24%
- West of the Cascades it is 3.88%



Chris Bettineski  
Pendleton High School



# Rural Oregon Perspective



*"A place where  
anyone with any  
type of problem  
can engage and  
succeed without  
persecution."*

*~ Dora Mulkey  
Class of 2015*

Carla Gay  
Portland Public Schools



## 1) Reengagement

- School districts should be **directed and incentivized** to reengage out-of-school youth.

## 2) Funding

- K-12 Funding must **follow reengaged students** (up to age 21) to high school completion programs best suited to their needs.

## 3) Accountability

- Accountability systems must **remove disincentives** for re-enrolling out-of-school youth and recognize the success of programs serving youth beyond the 4- and 5-year graduation window.



# Contact Information



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