

**Date:** March 4, 2019

**To:** Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair  
Rep. Susan McLain Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

**From:** Colt Gill, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Serena Stoudamire Wesley, Director of Youth Development Division

**RE:** Youth Development Division and Charter School Grants – March 5, 2019

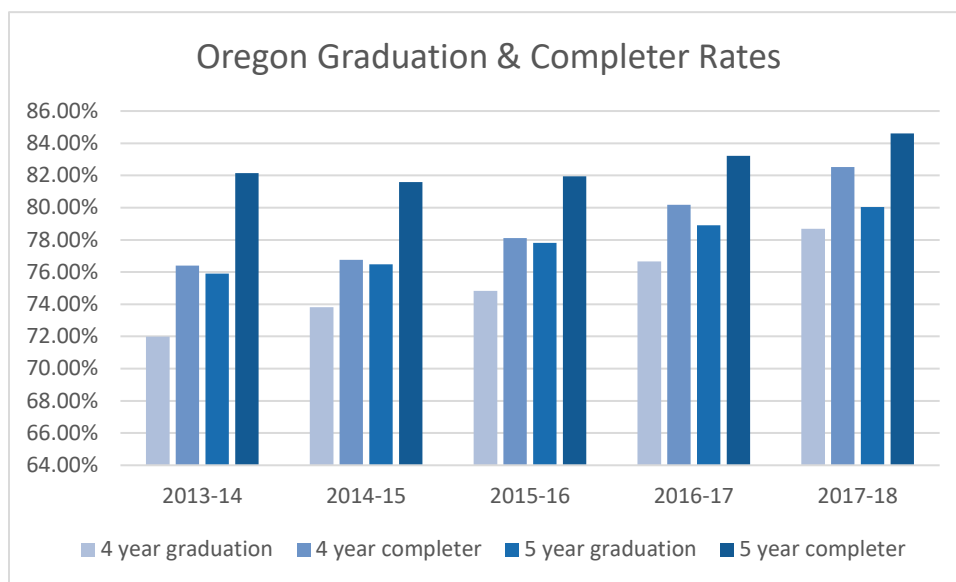
The Youth Development Division presented its program overview and biennial budget to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education on March 5, 2019, and the Oregon Department of Education presented its charter school grants program. During the presentation, members of the committee asked five questions requiring clarification. The questions asked and answers are provided below.

**1. Do you collect data on Oregon’s five-year graduation rate? What is the five-year graduation rate?**  
(Rep. McLain)

The agency reports on high school completion in the following two ways:

- Graduation Rates: Traditional and Modified Diplomas
- Completion Rates: Traditional and Modified Diplomas, GED, Adult High School Diplomas, and Extended Diplomas.

As mentioned in the Memo response from Feb. 26, Oregon last changed its graduation requirements for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-11, which would be the 4-year graduating cohort in 2013-14.



The data above refers to all Oregon students. Data is not available for youth who participate in YDD programs. Current YDD data collective practices do not allow for identifying which youth program participants were four or five-year graduates or completers.

**2. What information do you have on the 21-24 year-old young adults who are not in school but are working on their GEDs or re-engaging? (Rep. McLain)**

YDD grants may serve youth up to age 24, and 21-24 year olds do access YDD grant-funded services. Most youth in this age range participate in YDD-funded workforce training programs. Workforce programs may include educational services (such as tutoring, remediation and GED testing). Youth ages 21-24 that have not yet earned a diploma or GED may do so in these programs. However, many of the youth age 21 and over already have diplomas or GEDs when they enter YDD programming, and are disconnected from school and work at the time of enrollment. In these cases, services are more focused on barrier removal and workforce training, certification and placement.

**3. Are youth who enroll in an alternative program more likely to drop out? Are these youth double counted (Sen. Frederick)**

The Dropout rate in Oregon is calculated from an annual event count. Each year, the number of drop out events is totaled, with each student who drops out counted only once. The rate represents the percentage of students in grades 9-12 who withdrew from school and did not graduate or transfer to another school that leads to graduation. The dropout count excludes those who are institutionalized; enrolled in alternative school, home school, foreign exchange or adult educational programs; temporary absent for disciplinary, health, or family reasons; completed a GED; or are deceased.

If a youth drops out more than once in a school year, they are still only counted once in that year's dropout count. If a youth drops out, and returns to school in the same year, they are not counted as a dropout. If that youth were to reenroll and dropout again in a subsequent school year, the dropout event would count in both school years.

**4. How many students going through YDD's programs earn their high school diplomas or GEDs? (Rep. Alonso León)**

Of the YDD's 103 Community Investment Grants in the 2017-2019 biennium, 20 specifically focus on reengagement. Reengagement may mean reengagement to secondary education (a HS diploma or GED program), or reengagement to employment or occupational training, primarily for youth who already have a diploma or GED.

The other 83 Community Investment grants serve a younger population (elementary and middle school students) with a preventative focus, and/or the services are not specifically academic in nature (e.g. crime prevention, gang intervention, social emotional supports, and other support services). Nonetheless, the majority of the youth served in these YDD programs represent potential on-time graduates, if interventions and supports are successful.

The 20 Community Investment Grants that emphasize reengagement services served a total of 1,262 youth to date in the 2017-2019 biennium. Of these youth, 471 were disconnected from school at the

time of enrollment. This indicates that these young people were reengaged by YDD funded programming. An additional 769 youth were already reengaged at the time they joined the program. For these youth, grant funds support academic programming, support services, enrichment activities, workforce training, and employment for youth already enrolled in a reengagement program. 343 youth were enrolled in workforce reengagement services only; generally, these youth already have a secondary credential, and the program is focused on connecting them with training and employment.

The YDD will work with ODE to calculate a percentage rate of diploma/GED completion for youth participating in YDD grant-funded programs, who could be expected to do so, following the end of the biennium. This information was not collected in the previous biennium, but current data collection should allow us to compile this information.

One success measure that we monitor on an ongoing basis is the number of youth who are reengaged to education and/or the workforce. It is one of several success measures the YDD uses to evaluate program effectiveness; these vary based on the population served by the grant, and the specific needs and outcomes to be addressed.

**5. Which charter schools have taken advantage of the Charter School Grant Program? Can you provide some information on the Charter School Grant Program? (Sen. Frederick)**

The federal Charter School Program provides funds to the Oregon Department of Education to award four different types of grants to charter schools.

1. Planning: These grants are awarded to pre-operational charter schools in the development phase to assist with the start-up costs of creating a new school.
2. Implementing: These grants are awarded to new charter schools (in operation for fewer than three years) to assist with implementing their education models, professional development, and curriculum.
3. Disseminating: These grants are awarded to charter schools to assist with disseminating best practices between charter schools and their public school counterparts.
4. Expanding: These grants are awarded to older charter schools (in operation for at least three years) to assist with expanding the number of spots available and/or adding the number of grades served.

Since 2015, the following charter schools have been awarded grant money through ODE:

<b>Year</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Grades</b>	<b>Grant type</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>School District</b>
2015	Jane Goodall Environmental Middle Charter School	6-8	Dissemination	\$ 128,535.04	Salem-Keiser
2015	The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science	K-8	Dissemination	\$ 200,000.00	Salem-Keiser
2015	Mountain View Academy	K-8	Implementation	\$ 449,852.50	Lowell SD
2015	The Valley School of Southern Oregon	6-8	Implementation	\$ 429,617.01	Medford SD 549c
2016	Bridge Charter Academy	K-12	Implementation	\$ 449,844.14	Lowell SD 71
2016	Lighthouse Charter School	K-8	Implementation	\$ 450,000.00	Coos Bay SD
2016	Bridge Charter Academy	K-12	Planning	\$ 94,386.52	Lowell SD 71
2016	The Cannon Beach Academy	K-3	Planning	\$ 98,181.78	Seaside SD 10
2016	Twin Rivers Charter School	9-12	Planning	\$ 97,922.92	Eugene SD 4j
2017	Desert Sky Montessori	K-8	Implementation	\$ 450,000.00	Bend-LaPine
2017	Desert Sky Montessori	K-8	Planning	\$ 100,000.00	Bend-LaPine
2017	Frontier Charter Academy	K-12	Planning	\$ 97,389.10	Gervais SD
2017	Wahtonka Community School	9-12	Planning	\$ 100,000.00	North Wasco County SD
2018	Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School	K-8	Expansion	\$ 412,128.00	Beaverton SD
2018	City View Charter School	K-8	Expansion	\$ 450,000.00	Hillsboro SD
2018	Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences	6-12	Expansion	\$ 405,465.00	Oregon City SD
2018	Clackamas Web Academy	K-12	Expansion	\$ 342,522.00	N Clackamas SD
2018	Four Rivers Charter School	K-12	Expansion	\$ 450,000.00	Ontario- OR Dept of Ed
2018	Kids Unlimited Academy Charter School	K-8	Expansion	\$ 450,000.00	Medford SD 549c
2018	The Community Roots School	K-8	Expansion	\$ 449,510.00	Silver Falls SD
2018	Frontier Charter Academy	K-12	Implementation	\$ 357,401.00	Gervais SD
2018	McKenzie River Community School	K-12	Implementation	\$ 447,425.00	McKenzie SD
2018	The Cannon Beach Academy	K-3	Implementation	\$ 181,040.00	Seaside SD 10
2018	Twin Rivers Charter School	9-12	Implementation	\$ 275,000.00	Eugene SD 4j
2018	Wahtonka Community School	9-12	Implementation	\$ 275,000.00	North Wasco County SD
2018	Harmony High School	9-12	Planning	\$ 100,000.00	Lake Oswego SD
				<b>\$ 7,741,220.01</b>	