Virtual Education in Oregon

Senate Interim Committee on Education
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2:30 pm

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Virtual Education in Oregon

A brief overview:

- Virtual public charter schools have been in Oregon since 2005.
    - Clackamas Web Academy and Oregon Charter Academy opened their virtual doors at this time.

- Currently 20 virtual public charter schools or districts in Oregon.

- 13 of these virtual charter schools are in their 5th year of operation at minimum.

Educator Shortages

Attracting and retaining highly qualified staff.

Professional development and training of staff.

Virtual School Workforce in Oregon:

- **Consistent staffing** with increased levels of interest from Highly Qualified Oregon teachers.
    - Virtual Schools have not faced teacher shortage crisis plaguing many brick and mortar schools.
- Virtual Schools are **prepared** to **support** Oregon **students** if 3% cap is raised or removed.

Quality New Teacher Training:

- Our priority is to **prepare** classroom teachers for **effective** online learning
    - 2-week new hire bootcamp, Year-long Coaching and Mentoring, Library of new teacher training videos.
        - Key areas of support: Fostering relationships with students virtually, understanding the instructional environment, professional practice, and data driven instruction.

Professional Growth and Teacher Development:

- National partnership with SNHU for **teachers** to provide **free M.Ed in online instruction** to grow our teachers.
- National partnership with many universities to **host student** teachers to further **strengthen** our workforce.

ODE Standards:
Work Group in Action

Perspective of the work happening in that group from a committee member

A common expectation for all virtual programs/school to follow housed within 6 pillars:

- Each pillar looks at a different lens of standards.
- Rigor yet realistic standards.
- Focus on high levels of academic achievement and equitable design of instruction and access to education.
  - 3% cap creates inequitable access to education. In our current structure, home address determines whether a student has access to educational choice.

Stemmed from:

- The need of a common set of standards for all virtual learning programs/schools to follow
- Stakeholder feedback has driven the direction of standards
- Resources from other states incorporating a common set of standards successfully.

Thank you to ODE for spearheading this work. Their commitment to transparency and engagement has been apparent.

Governance Model

A brief overview of charter school annual accountability.

Virtual Charter Schools:

- Must have academic goals as part of charter contract with district.

- Annual audits and reports on:
  - Performance of the organization including academics.
    - Annual audit and annual report on
  - Financial audits

- Annual submit to both authorizing district and ODE:
  - Written annual report
  - Performance audit report
  - Financial audit report
  - Accreditation report when necessary

- Current overview structure is correct.
  - A good authorizing district has greater capacity to maintain integrity of the academics and operations of the charter school.
  - ODE already receives annual reports on more audits and presentations than from districts

- Recommendation:
  - As part of the initial charter process, ODE or OSBA could host a training for authorizing districts on how to perform as an authorizer.

Celebrations From the Representative Schools

Oregon Charter Academy:

- Accreditation score of 377.5 out of 400

- Accreditation - International School of Distinction Award
  - Only 1 out of 79 schools internationally to receive this honor. Only school in Oregon and on the west coast.

- Poetry Out Loud state champion.

- 23 of 55 graduating ASCEND (CTE) students have earned industry-recognized certifications, including Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, IT Fundamentals Pro and Oregon Employability Skills.

- eDynamic CTE National Teacher Finalist.

- 1,143 students have earned college credit since the inception of the program.

- Nearly $1.1 million in scholarships awarded to ORCA seniors.

- Voted Best of the Mid-Valley, "Best Charter School," "Best Leadership," and finalists for "Most Innovative Workplace," "Company Culture," and "Best Boss."

Cascade Virtual Academy, Insight School of Oregon- Painted Hills, & Destinations Career Academy of Oregon:
3 Virtual Charter Schools within one District Authorizer.

2019-2020 School Year:

- ISORPH: Increased graduation rate by 6.5%.
  - Increased 9th grade on track by 27%
- ORDCA: Increased graduation rate by 30% (school opened SY 18-19).
  - Increased 9th grade on track by 45%

2020-2021 School Year:

- CVA: Added grades 9-12. CVA opened in 2018-2019 as K-8.
- All 3 schools: Added Flexible Pathway allowing students to work full time and successfully complete high school courses required for graduation.
- All 3 schools: Added individualized pathways or students in CTE. Added semester and quarter-based classes.
- CVA & ISORPH: Added high school credit classes in grades 7 & 8.

Accreditation:

- ISORPH- Full accreditation June 2016 with Cognia
- ORDCA- Full accreditation June 2021 with Cognia
- CVA- Full accreditation March 2021 with Cognia

Questions?