

OUTDOOR SCHOOL UPDATE:

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2022



Overview

- Measure 99 and the history of ODS
- ODS 101 and curriculum
- ODS participation
- Ongoing challenges
- Bright spots
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts
- Budget update
- Final thoughts and Q & A



Measure 99 and the history of state funding

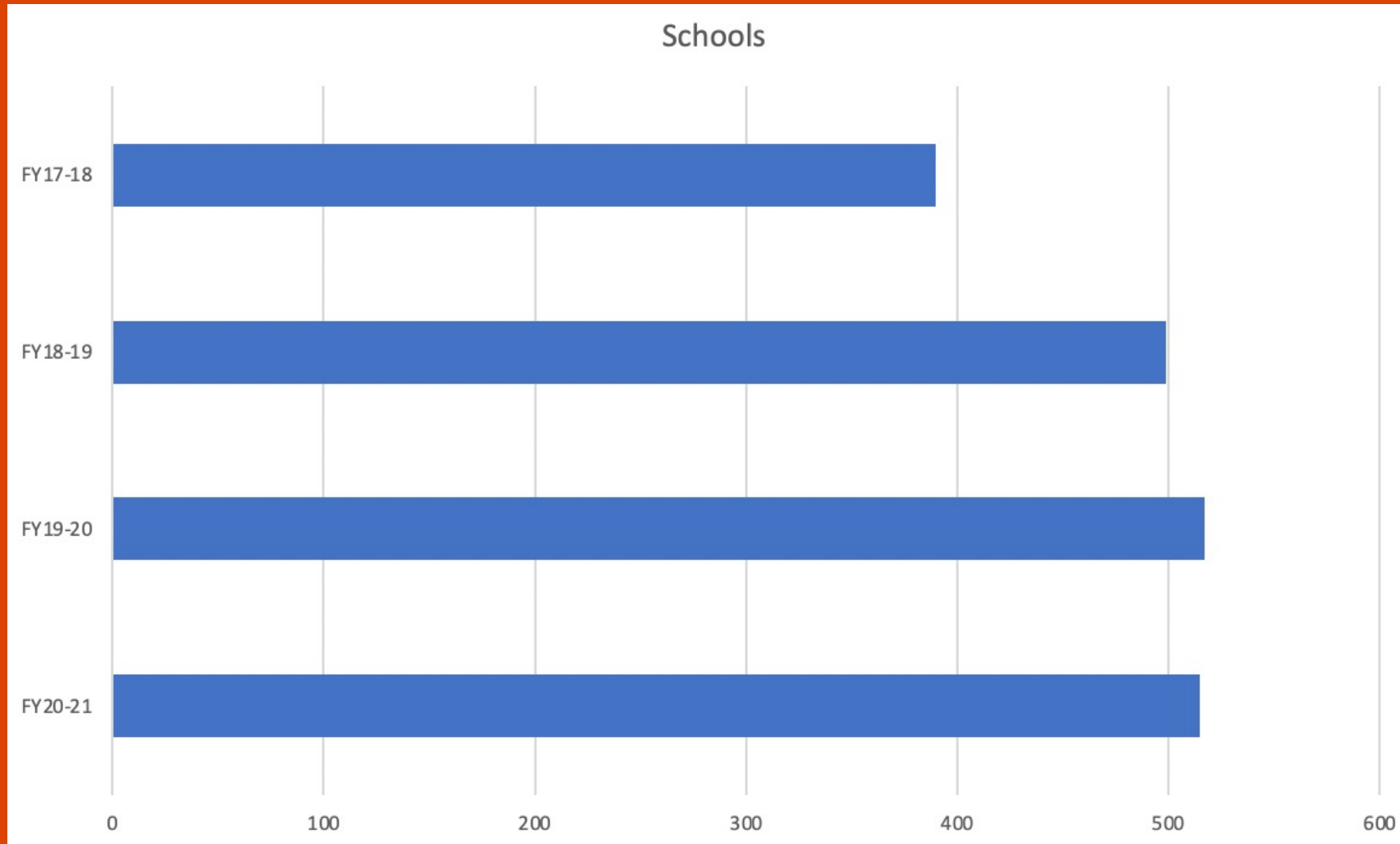
- ODS began in Oregon +60 years ago
- Traditionally a week-long residential, hands-on learning experience for 5th or 6th grade students
- By 2007 funding cuts lead to less than half of students attending
- In 2015, "Outdoor School bill" (SB439) passed establishing ODS as a statewide program
- In 2016, voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 99, authorizing state lottery funds to provide access for all fifth-or sixth grade students to attend
- Legislature authorizes \$24 million over first biennium for program launch

Outdoor School 101

- Immersive high quality learning experiences for every student
- Diverse implementation across Oregon
- SB 439 outlines curriculum elements
- Core elements
 - Standards-based
 - Field Science
 - Teamwork, problem solving, & collaboration
 - High School Leadership
- Extremely strong outcomes
- Up to one week of residential programming for 5th/6th graders



Over 117,309 Oregon Students have participated in ODS since 2017*



**Includes some 7th graders who missed opportunity due to covid*



Working Through Challenges

- Ongoing pandemic causing uncertainty, modifications, cancellations
- Staffing issues (including HS and parent/community volunteers)
- Data collection and evaluation
- Some students missed some of the “magic” of residential programming



Bright Spots Emerge

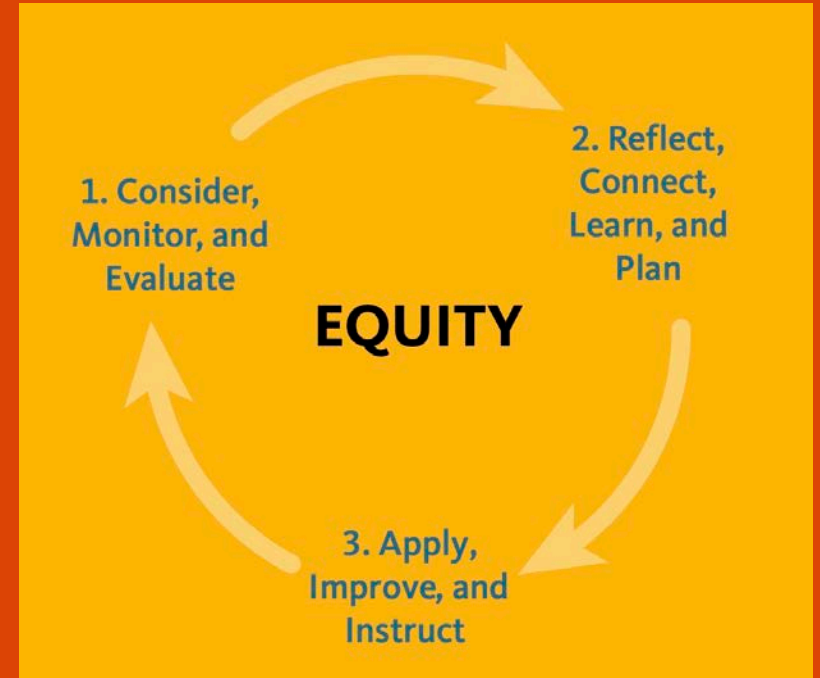
- Disruption in programming gave time and space for more inclusion and equity efforts
- Demand remains high (7 programs applied for planning grants to begin or expand ODS programs) – *Gray Family Foundation*
- Networking and support
 - 2nd ODS Gathering next week
 - Community of practice

“I heard about the group and decided to join through word of mouth from other providers...I now look forward to every meeting, I come with questions, I have pages of notes and insights, and I bring those back to my tiny org trying to do big things. Opal Creek is entering 2022 once again providing outdoor school programming, and I know we are much more prepared because of the trials, errors, and learnings shared in that open forum space.” – Community of Practice Participant



Targeted Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Efforts

- 3 self evaluation tools and accompanying professional development
 - Culturally responsive curriculum
 - Organizational cultural responsiveness
 - Special education and accessibility
- Over \$4.5 million in EDI grants
 - Site accessibility (15)
 - Program improvement (11)





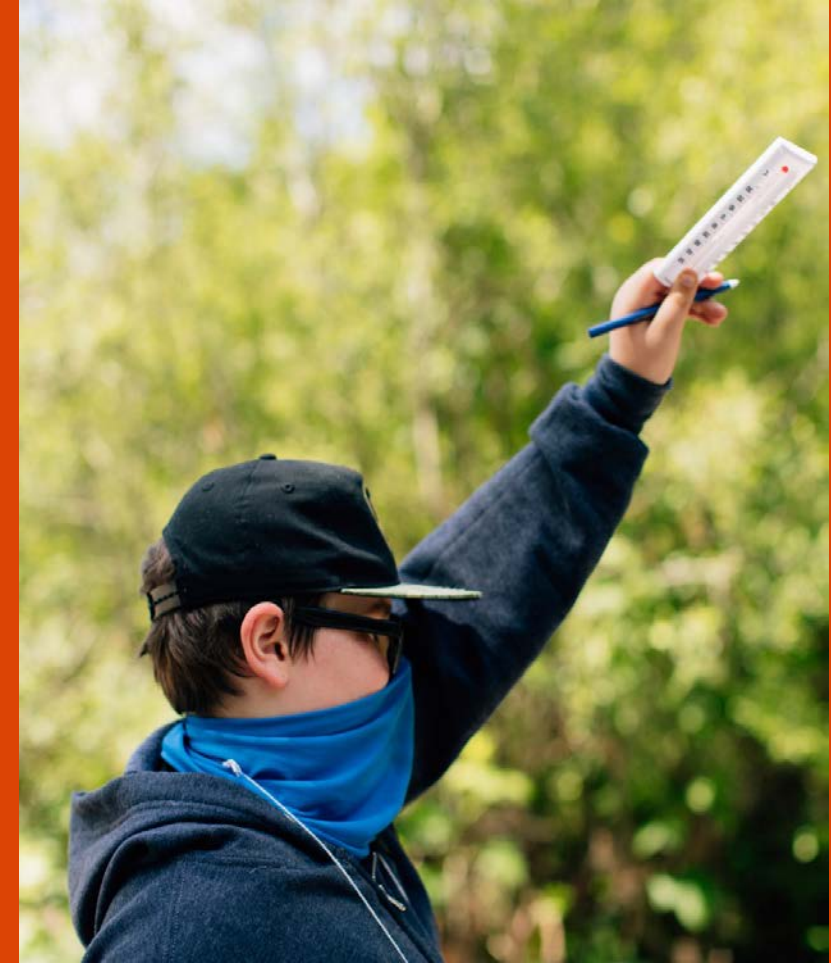
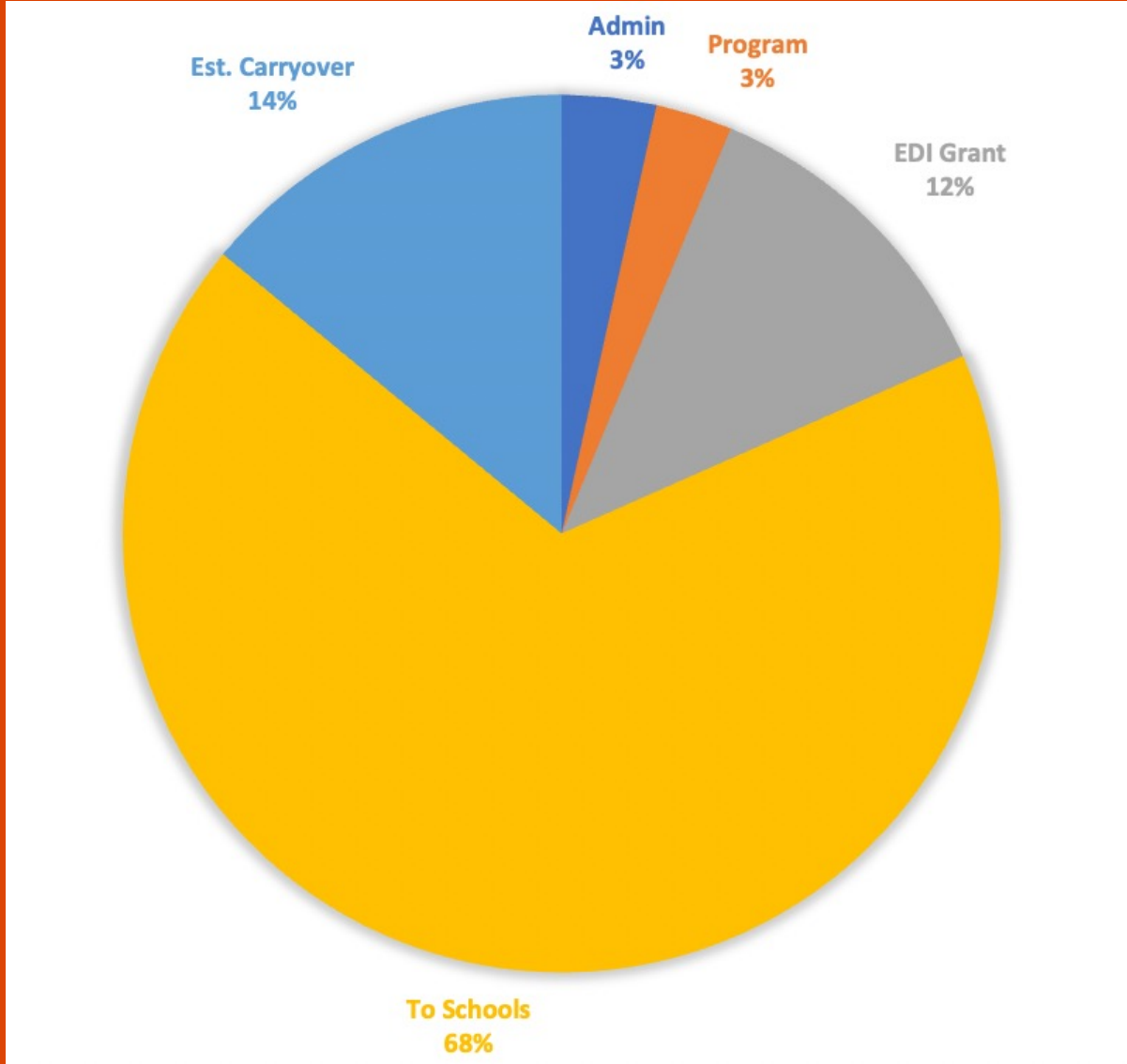
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYpTTmgI5bY&t=2s>

Budget and Participation

	5th Graders	6th Graders	7th Graders	Number of Schools	TOTAL REQUEST
FY 20-21 Reported	6,733	21,706	6,206	518 (181 cancelled)	\$ 9,926,010.03
FY 21-22 Applied	13,637	30,986	5,075	543	\$ 23,318,236.00



FY 21 Estimated Budget Allocations



Final thoughts

- Outdoor school is an integral, transformative experience for K-12 instruction and Oregon's youth
- Together, we are emerging as stronger, more equitable programs, better able to serve all of Oregon's youth
- We anticipate strong growth as the pandemic's challenges begin to evaporate and demand increases
- Continued investment by schools, staff, and faculties
- Renewed interest in the benefits of outdoor education
- THANK YOU for your support - ODS is one of a kind





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS