

Oregon Outdoor School



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Friends of
**OUTDOOR
SCHOOL**

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Oregon Outdoor School

- Voters dedicated 4% Lottery Revenue via M99
- Diverse implementation across Oregon
- SB 439 outlines curriculum elements
- Core elements:
 - Standards-based
 - Field Science
 - Community-building
 - High School Leadership
- ***Immersive*** learning ***experience*** for ***every*** 5th or 6th grade student



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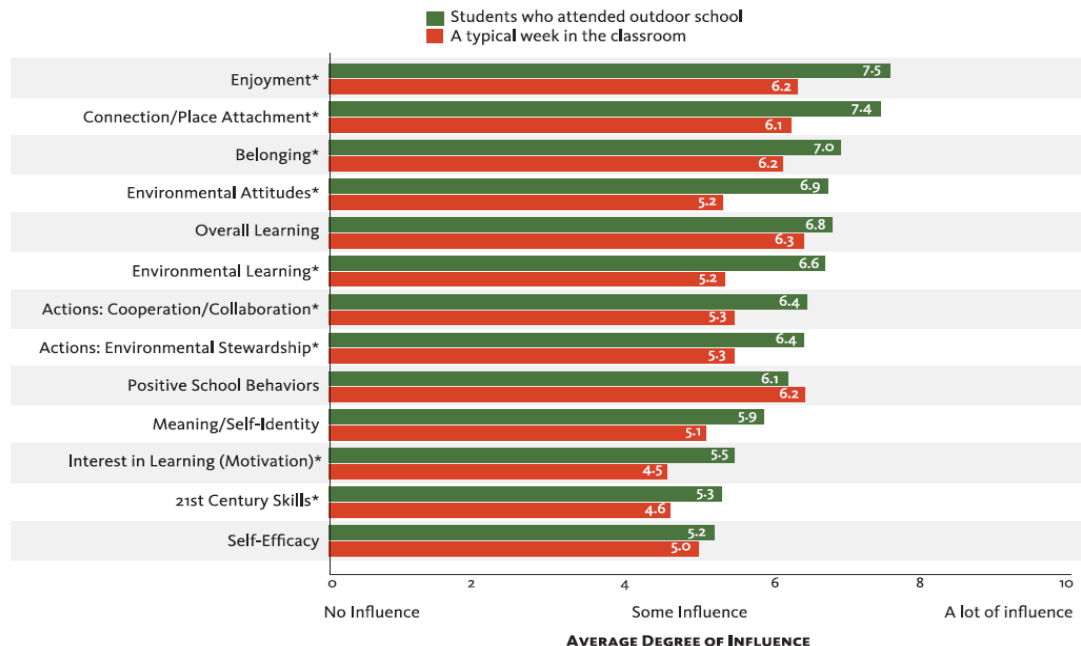
Oregon Outdoor School

- Extremely strong outcomes
 - Academic growth
 - Interest and engagement in school
 - Interpersonal and leadership skills
- The envy of the nation
- Part of the Oregon Legacy alongside the Bottle Bill and Public Beaches



Oregon Outdoor outcomes at a glance

OUTDOOR SCHOOL HAS GREATER INFLUENCE ON STUDENTS THAN A WEEK IN THE CLASSROOM. MOST OUTCOMES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER IN OUTDOOR SCHOOL WHEN COMPARED TO A WEEK IN THE CLASSROOM.



Note: Average values for each outcome shown for 5th and 6th grade students who attended outdoor school (n ≤ 1754) and students in classrooms, the control group (n ≤ 102). Outcomes derived from composite values for 1-5 items each. Outcomes marked with an asterisk denote statistically significant differences were found. See the Methods section for the exact items corresponding to each outcome and additional information on the control group.



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Oregon Outdoor School Before State Funding

The experience was great for kids, but the program was...

- Inconsistent
 - Outdoor school for *some*
- Unpredictable
 - Funding always insecure
- Under-resourced
 - Reliant on fundraising, donations, and parent-pay
 - Lacking comprehensive evaluation



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Oregon Outdoor School After State Funding

The experience is great for kids, and now funding has...

- Expanded attendance and participation
- Created strong student outcomes
 - Research and evaluation
- Created educator professional development
- Provided predictable funding for planning and program improvement



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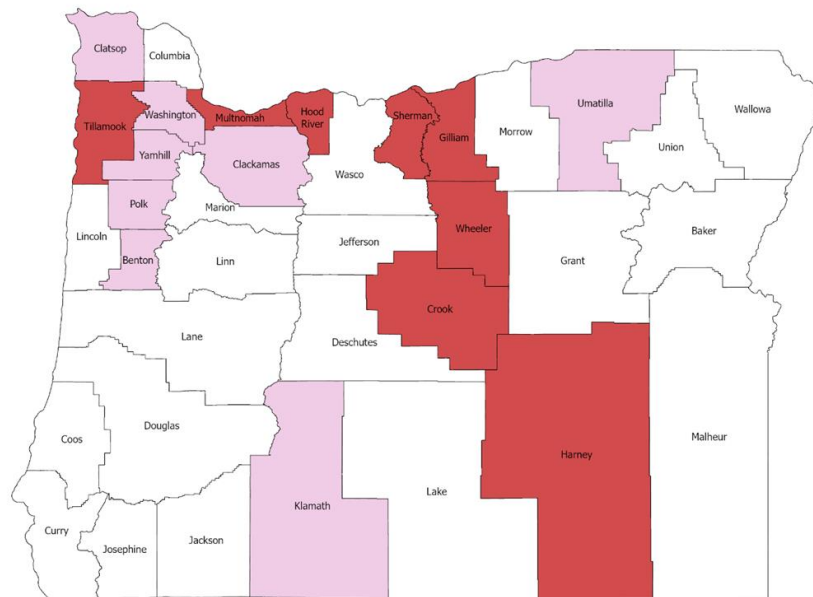


Outdoor School Participation: pre Measure 99

Percent of Outdoor School Participation by County in 2012

Includes all grade levels, not just 5th and 6th grade

Includes private schools



Source: Oregon Community Foundation, 2012



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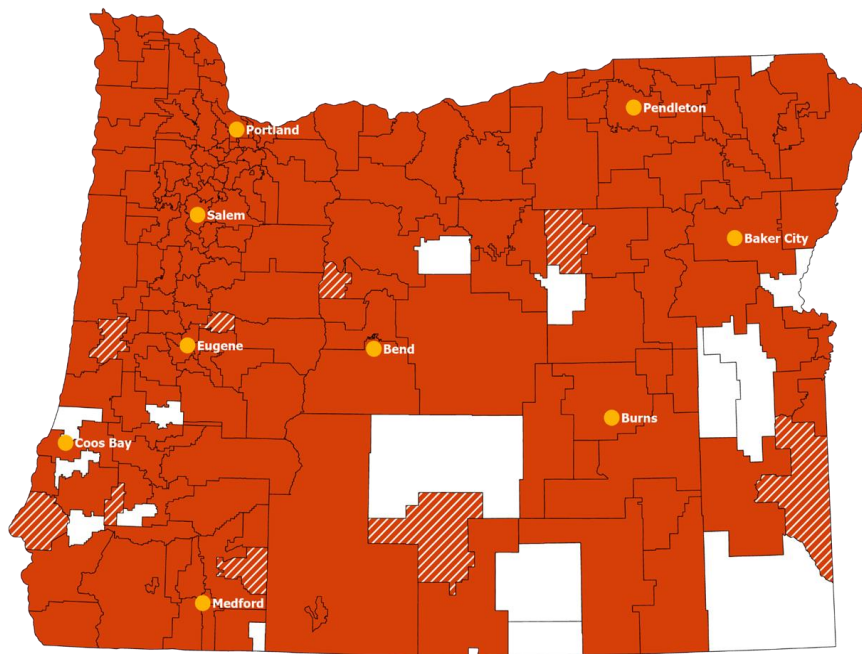
Legend

- 81-100% Participation
- 41-80% Participation
- Less than 40% Participation



Outdoor School Participation: post Measure 99

Outdoor School Participation by School District 2024-2025



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Legend

- School Districts that Participated in Outdoor School
- School Districts that Participate in Outdoor School Every Other Year
- School Districts that Did Not Participate in Outdoor School



Financial Snapshot

	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Lottery Appropriations	24,000,000	43,040,555	49,418,728	36,406,064	48,060,583
Total, Expenses & Grants	20,111,730	20,839,370	46,469,237	62,748,414	50,377,303
Expenditures & Grants:					
Admin Costs	1,540,845	2,684,820	2,817,023	4,809,305	3,451,904
Employee Prof Dev	93,076	64,206	113,421	272,076	109,800
Program Outreach and Ed	133,880	103,508	132,377	246,953	47,600
School District Funding	18,330,102	16,209,344	37,994,846	49,644,754	45,283,353
EDAI Improvement Grants	-	1,695,729	5,238,529	5,632,895	350,000
OSU Assessment	13,827	81,762	173,040	2,142,432	1,134,646
Net Activity	3,888,270	22,201,185	2,949,491	(26,342,350)	(2,316,720)
Balance	3,888,270	26,089,455	29,038,946	2,696,596	379,876
Students Attended	68,745	48,360	71,309	71,559	



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Impacts of Budget Reductions 2025-26

- Shift to shorter programs, including day-only programs
- Staff layoffs; staff:student ratios growing; fewer high school students participating
- Fewer opportunities for family and school outreach
- Program cancellation
- OSU staff layoffs

Thank you for your continued support!

- Outdoor school is an integral, transformative experience for K-12 instruction and Oregon's youth
- Prior to budget cuts, we were seeing strong student participation and increased attendance
- There remains strong interest in the benefit and necessity of outdoor education
- All of that is under threat, risking a return to Outdoor School for Some