



EMBRACE CIVILITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

PROPOSAL FOR OREGON EDSS AND COOPERATING DISTRICTS

OBJECTIVES

To showcase the incredibly important role that the state's ESDs can play in supporting the positive outcomes envisioned by Safe and Effective Schools for ALL Students Advisory Committee Recommendations.

To implement and assess an approach to establish a Professional/Student Learning Community to support positive school climate.

SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The Oregon Department of Education just released the Advisory Committee report on Safe and Effective Schools for ALL Students (SSESAS). This proposal is in accord with key recommendations, including Professional Learning, Equity, and Data. It is especially in accord with these two:

Recommendation 3: Implementation

The State of Oregon shall develop a framework of criteria to select, adopt, and implement evidence-based and promising practices, strategies, and programs. (Listing relevant practices.)

- Restorative practices
- Inclusive practices
- Proactive behavior support/strategies for de-escalation
- Trauma-informed practices
- Culturally responsive and sustaining teaching/practices
- Student engagement/responsiveness
- Social, cultural, and emotional learning
- Bullying/harassment prevention
- Bias-based bullying/harassment prevention
- Youth suicide prevention
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- De-escalation practices

Engage Students to Embrace Civility addresses these issues.

Recommendation 9: Student and Family Voice

The State of Oregon shall provide a process for students ... to have a voice to engage in all levels of decision-making and pathways ...

School districts shall establish student representative positions to provide input on local school policy and express concerns within the school district. School administrators shall create student and parent advisory committees and forums to assist in school-specific decisions that will affect quality of life, education, activities, and to express any concern.

The proposed implementation approach facilitates this.

More information: <http://www.embracecivility.org/embrace-civility/>

APPROACH

The intent is to deliver this program through an ESD-based collaborative of participating districts in a manner that will be cost effective and achieve positive, measurable outcomes.

The ESD Engage Students to Embrace Civility initiative will be focused on the steps necessary to establish a vibrant Professional/Student Learning Community at the ESD-region level, as well as at the state level.

This approach seeks to facilitate student involvement in a meaningful and continuous learning environment—where staff and students are participating in learning activities and developing strategies for implementation of the student-led program.

The approach to accomplish this is:

- Face-to-face learning and planning opportunities.
- Short videos that provide 24/7 access to essential insight for staff and students.
- Regional and/or state email discussion groups.
- State web site that provides links to resources and ideas, as well as supports student-led creative initiatives.

The Oregon Task Force on School Safety is developing plans for the establishment of a Statewide School Safety and Prevention System. This plan envisions expanded funding for ESDs. This proposed pilot implementation will provide the opportunity for some ESDs to showcase an approach that is in accord with the SSESAS recommendations in a way that could help support the funding request for this larger plan.

INITIAL WORKSHOPS

Two initial half-day workshops will be held.

- For staff mentors and students to learn about the program, discuss regional strategies, and form community.
- For school leaders with a focus on strategies to investigate and intervene in more serious situations in a manner that fosters resilience and restoration—and avoids an exclusionary response.

COSTS

Given the various sizes of schools and the desire to support equity, a base rate of \$1.00 per student is charged for this program. This would be based on the average student population (not counting K-3).

An additional amount of \$2,500 per ESD will be charged for two half day workshops and ongoing support of the ongoing Learning Community. It is not necessary for all of the districts within an ESD region to participate.

There will be no additional charge for staff to be able to watch the two online videos on the Embrace Civility in the Digital Age web site.

One copy of *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* will be provided. Additional copies of the book are available on Amazon for \$44.