

Superintendent's Report to the Board

Mark Angle-Hobson, Ed.D.
September 16, 2026

Superintendent's Focus

Visibility | Communication | Relationships

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, I am focusing my leadership on implementing our strategic plan while strengthening relationships with our staff, component districts, and regional partners. I am especially focused on being visible and accessible across our region, communicating consistently and transparently, and ensuring that our strategic priorities translate into meaningful improvements for the districts and communities we serve.

Questions I am keeping at the center of this work is:

- How does this improve outcomes for component districts?
 - How does this increase equitable access for students?
 - How does this strengthen SOESD's role as a regional convener and partner rather than merely a service provider?
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Strategic Plan Implementation

Presence and Access Across the Region

- Jul 16: OSBA Summer Learning in Eugene
- Aug 4: Operations Center (Grape St) check-in
- Aug 6: OAESD Superintendents discussion with Oregon Network for Education Excellence
- Aug 14: 2nd annual Admin Team/Office Professionals (OP) Retreat
- Aug 19: 2nd annual Board Retreat
- Aug 21: Annual Back-to-School Celebration
- Aug 24: Operations Center (Grape St) check-in
- Aug 25: RESOLVE Board Meeting
- Aug 26: STEPS Classrooms Open House
- Sep 1: Klamath Falls City School Back-to-School In-Service
- Sep 1: Southern Oregon Education Leadership Consortium (SOELC) meeting
- Sep 2: Licensed Labor Management
- Sep 3: Rogue River School District site visit
- Sep 15: Travelin' Tuesday:
 - EI/ECSE (Allen Creek Preschool)
 - Grants Pass Regional Office (GPRO)
 - SOELS (Gilbert Creek)

Increasing my visibility across the region continues to be an important leadership priority. This month included visits and engagement with Klamath Falls City Schools, Rogue River School District, SOELS, the Grants Pass Regional Office, and other SOESD sites.

These visits are helping me better understand the experiences, needs, and opportunities across our region and are strengthening relationships with district and SOESD leaders.

What I am hearing:

Districts are interested in ways we can partner to meet SB141 accountability requirements and are concerned about enrollment declines that will impact budgets.

What I am doing with what I am hearing:

SOESD provided multiple professional development opportunities for educators this summer to help ensure teachers and leaders have tools, resources, and supports related to SB141. Executive leadership is scheduling meetings with the Business Office and Program Leaders to determine where we are with our budgets to ensure we have a successful close to the 2025-27 biennium. We will also make plans for any rightsizing that is needed for the 2027-29 biennium to ensure our costs are reasonable for district budgets.

Safe, Functional, Regionally Responsive Facilities

We completed the move into our new Klamath Falls Regional Office in July. We have also ended leases at Earhart, Franquette, H Street, and our previous Klamath Falls location, following earlier lease reductions at Chevy Way and West Main..

These changes advance our strategic objective of maintaining safe, functional, and regionally responsive facilities while also supporting our broader effort to reduce our physical footprint and use agency resources responsibly.

Leadership at Every Level

We held our second annual Admin Team/Office Professionals Retreat on August 14 and our second annual Board Retreat on August 19.

The Admin/OP Retreat provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, clarify expectations, and build leadership capacity across the agency.

The Board Retreat provided valuable time to step back from the regular business of Board meetings and focus on the larger direction of SOESD. I am using the priorities and perspectives shared during the retreat to help guide our work this year.

Following the Board Retreat:

I appreciate the Board asking me to consider ways to tie my “Big Rocks” and Strategic Plan implementation work into my evaluation goals. This monthly report format has been reimagined to help bring greater clarity to those connections.

Communication and Organizational Culture

We continue to implement consistent communication structures that support our goal of becoming a more connected and informed agency.

- The **SOESD Almanac** is being published weekly as part of our 2026–27 *Growing Together* theme.
- The monthly **SOESD Almanac: Component District Edition** begins later this month.
- The virtual **question box** remains available for employees to submit questions, suggestions, and feedback.
- A centralized Google Folder continues to provide employees with access to high-priority communications. We are also creating a “Table of Links” for the agencies most accessed documents, spreadsheets and weblinks.
- **First Friday Coffee with Cabinet** will resume in October with a new format designed to encourage connection and conversation.

These efforts support our strategic objective of **Internal Communication and Knowledge Access** and reflect our commitment to Excellence in Service and Connection in Community.

What we are learning:

Employees continue to express appreciation for our efforts to provide communication that helps make connections across programs, departments and geography.

Superintendent Evaluation: Progress Toward Annual Goals

Strategic Plan Implementation

I am establishing systems and routines that connect the day-to-day work of the agency to our five-year strategic plan. This includes aligning superintendent activities, admin team meetings, and Board reporting with strategic objectives and beginning to establish measures of progress and impact.

Governance

The August Board Retreat provided an opportunity to deepen our shared understanding of the strategic direction of SOESD. I am continuing to translate the Board’s priorities into implementation work and will keep the Board informed about progress, challenges, and emerging issues.

Visibility, Communication, and Relationships

I have continued to prioritize presence across the region through district and SOESD site visits, regional meetings, and engagement with educational and community partners. These interactions are helping strengthen relationships and inform my understanding of regional needs.

Leadership and Organizational Culture

The Admin Team/Office Professionals Retreat and Back-to-School Celebration provided opportunities to reinforce our people-first leadership philosophy, strengthen relationships, and connect our work to SOESD's mission, vision, and core values.

What I'm Hearing Across the Region

One of my priorities this year is to ensure that visibility is more than simply being present. I want our presence in districts and SOESD sites to help me better understand the experiences of the people we serve and to identify opportunities for SOESD to be a stronger regional partner.

A theme I am hearing this month is:

People are noticing a change in the way SOESD does business. A retired employee who returned this year to sub mentioned that the culture is more positive and collaborative than when she left two years ago. Another employee stated that in the ten years they've been attending the beginning of year activities, this year was the most organized and meaningful.

Board Awareness

On Track

- Strategic plan implementation
- Regional visibility and district engagement
- Facilities consolidation and regional access
- Communication structures
- Leadership development and organizational culture

Watching

- Budget/fiscal pressures
- Preparing for Classified Bargaining
- Staff Retention

Board Action or Attention Needed

Approval of Immigration Policy KNA (as required by law to be in place September 30, 2026.)

Looking Ahead

Over the coming month, I will focus on:

- Continuing visits to districts and SOESD sites as part of our regional visibility goal
- Advancing implementation of the strategic plan
- Continuing work on the 2027–28 LSP process
- Preparing for upcoming regional superintendent convenings
- Continuing work related to facilities, bargaining, and fiscal responsibility
- Strengthening communication and feedback systems across the agency

I appreciate the Board's partnership as we continue the work of **Growing Together** and building an SOESD that is increasingly connected, responsive, and focused on the needs of the students, districts, families, and communities we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Angle-Hobson". To the right of the signature, the text "ED.D." is printed in a small, blue, sans-serif font.

Mark Angle-Hobson, Ed.D.
Superintendent