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District Board Talking Points

November 2018

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) recently released the state 2018-19 report cards. Overall, our region performed well. In particular, our regional 84% graduation rate continues to exceed the state average of 77%. Good things are happening in eastern Oregon schools!

One strategy to improve graduation rates is the reduction of chronic absenteeism. Not to be confused as school attendance, chronic absenteeism focuses on those students who miss over 10% of the school year.

Addressing chronic absenteeism is a major state initiative. ODE recently identified “Tier 1” districts struggling the most with this issue. Once again, Eastern Oregon led the way as the only region with no Tier 1 districts. In order to assist Tier 2 and other districts, ODE recently contracted with IMESD to provide a regional coordinator to assist with best practices. We hired a dynamic young leader, Landon Braden, who is already making headway in our districts. It is our goal to reduce chronic absenteeism by 3% in the coming year and look forward to the challenge.