



the **Willamette**  
**Promise**

**Student-centered. Future-focused.**

In Oregon, we tell our children to follow their dreams.

**Willamette Promise helps those dreams take flight.**

## **WHO** the Willamette Promise serves

200,000 students in 40 school districts in Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Multnomah, Washington, Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties

Willamette Promise addresses the 40-40-20 challenge adopted by the Oregon's Legislature, whose goal—by 2025—is for 40 percent of Oregonians to earn a four-year degree or higher, 40 percent to earn an associate's degree or postsecondary certificate and the remaining 20 percent to earn a high school diploma.

## **WHAT** the Willamette Promise does

Whether a student envisions a future as a veterinarian or a welder, a teacher or an actor, Willamette Promise can inspire them to take a journey they otherwise might not imagine. Willamette Promise gives high school students the opportunity to:

- Earn college credits—up to a whole year of college before graduation.
- Complete Career and Technical courses and achieve certification—before graduation.
- Prepare for next steps by tapping into information on careers and colleges.

## **WHY** the Willamette Promise benefits students

- Students get to try college-level coursework without fear of failure.
- Students imagine themselves as college students and understand what further education entails.
- Students save money, Willamette Promise costs only \$30 per student per year—no matter how many credits they earn.
- High school and college staff share teaching materials and strategies.
- School districts build a culture of students pursuing college- and career-readiness.
- More high school graduates pursue advanced degrees and certificates.
- Students receive up-to-date information on colleges and universities, scholarships and various programs.

## **HOW** the Willamette Promise works

- K-12 counselors, advisors and career staff collaborate with college and university faculty to connect students with career training and college opportunities.
- High school and college staff in our region collaborate to create college-level course content and assessments.
- High school teachers include the college-level content and assessments in their classes.
- Students choose to take on the college-level material, and after successful completion, they register for college credit.



*“Whether helping them graduate more quickly or giving them the confidence to go to college, Willamette Promise benefits students.”*

—Jim Orth, Dual Credit and CTE Coordinator,  
Salem-Keizer School District

## **It's a fact**

- ✓ Students who take dual-credit courses in high school attend college at a higher rate than high school graduates overall.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Students who take dual-credit courses are 10 percent more likely to complete a bachelor's degree—12 percent more likely if their parents never attended college.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Office of Institutional Research, Oregon University System, “Dual Credit in Oregon: An Analysis of Students Taking Dual Credit in High School in 2007-08 with Subsequent Performance in College,” 2010.

<sup>2</sup> University of Iowa, “The Impact of Dual Enrollment on College Degree Attainment,” Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 2013.