

Board Talking Points

May 2026

Governor Kotek's Executive Order In April, Governor Kotek released an Executive Order, which restricts district flexibility regarding instructional time. Here is a quick summary:

Annually, districts sign off on Division 22 requirements. This includes developing a school calendar to meet the minimum instructional time for each grade level:

- Grades K-8 900 hours
- Grades 9-11 990 hours
- Grade 12 960 hours

Currently, districts may develop 4, 4.5, or 5-day weeks that meet the minimum number of hours. Districts may count parent conference and professional developments toward the hour requirement. If a district falls below this threshold due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e., furlough days due to budget or weather events) they can receive a one-year waiver from ODE.

Governor Kotek presented the Executive Order to the State Board of Education on April 16. She asked the board to change state rules regarding instructional time, no longer allowing districts to reduce instructional hours or to count hours toward teacher professional development/ conferences, implement furlough days, or apply for ODE waivers. The State Board approved most of the Governor's requests but declined to change the parent conference/professional development piece. The Justice Department will render a decision on the enforcement of a Governor's Executive Order vs. State Board action. For now, the 30 hours of parent-teacher conferences and 30 hours of professional development remain in place; removing these without funding would create a 60-hour unfunded mandate.

Crystal Apple Awards We hope you can attend the annual Crystal Apple Awards, recognizing our outstanding district staff:

- Monday, May 4, Union County Crystal Apple Awards, EOU, Gilbert Hall
- Monday, May 11 Umatilla-Morrow Crystal Apple Awards, Wildhorse Casino.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services. IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap.