

Board Talking Points

September 2025

As students and staff return to the classroom, there exists a great deal of excitement! One of the privileges of being an educator is the thrill of the beginning and ending of the school year.

Besides educating over 14,000 students, our regional districts will soon implement several changes to our current procedures:

Cell Phone Policy After the 2025 legislative session, Governor Kotek signed an executive order prohibiting the use of cell phones in Oregon classrooms. District procedures must be adopted in the fall for implementation this winter. Each of our districts are in various stages of the process. Some previously implemented cell phone protocols, while others are finalizing expectations. Due to the widespread usage of mobile devices, the cell phone ban is a polarizing topic. However, with good communication and fidelity to process, I am confident our regional boards and administration will develop plans that reflect the unique culture of each community.

Accountability Bill The 2025 legislature passed a bill to redefine how Oregon school performance will be measured. Building on previous metrics such as 3rd grade reading and 4-year graduation rate, as well as localized targets, the new accountability system will feature additional measurements in math and attendance. The Oregon Department of Education is in the process of developing rules and procedures to support the bill and will have additional information coming out later this fall and early winter. IMESD will be ready to support districts on implementation of the changes.

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services.

VISION

IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap. We are committed to the values of antiracism and multiculturalism.