

## Kovach, Andy

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**From:** Kovach, Andy  
**Sent:** Friday, March 03, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** Calvert, Tami  
**Cc:** Mcbee, Debbie  
**Subject:** FW: OCTM's plea in regards to the Statewide Inservice Day

Hi Tami,

Please add this to the correspondence portion of the upcoming regular board meeting.

Thanks,

Andy

**From:** Molly Smith [mailto:octmpresident@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:01 PM  
**To:** Molly Smith <octmpresident@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** OCTM's plea in regards to the Statewide Inservice Day

To Whom It May Concern:

The Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board has urged me to write this letter, as their President, regarding the October Statewide Inservice Day. Our Board is forty strong and represents educators from throughout the state. Historically, this day existed to encourage teachers to participate in professional development. Therefore, many organizations such as ours, Oregon Science Teachers Association, Oregon Reading Association, Oregon Council for Social Studies, and Oregon Association of School Librarians, to name a few, have offered top notch learning opportunities for teachers.

Over the years, various school districts have chosen to reduce, or even eliminate, these opportunities by not allowing their staff members to take advantage of the many choices given by various professional organizations. Other districts have made the traditional October inservice day a non-paid, non-student contact day. In other instances, staff are required to attend in-district seminars instead of being allowed to choose freely from among many wonderful workshops that have taken over a year to develop. For example, nationally known speakers from throughout the country come for the Northwest Math Conference. Choice has always been a hallmark of education in Oregon. These restrictions have reduced the number of teachers that can afford to attend Professional Learning opportunities.

The Oregon Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board is asking (beseeching) your group to urge administrators and boards to reinstate this Statewide Inservice Day. Given free choice, teachers will be more inspired to attend one of the many conferences offered. They will be able to network with colleagues from various parts of the state, which, in turn, will encourage sharing among peers. We have some amazing teachers in this state, and being treated as professionals will enhance the feeling that what goes on in the classroom is of great importance. We believe that if teachers are given the freedom to choose professional development that they personally apply to their own classrooms, they will be excited to share these ideas with their peers in their buildings and districts.

Please help us persuade school districts in Oregon to put aside their agendas in October and allow a day for teachers that is a non-student contact day, as this will minimize the hardship on students and schools. We believe the importance of professional development can be exciting and rejuvenating, and we encourage districts, professional organizations and our state to support us in this cause.

Sincerely,  
Molly Smith  
OCTM President  
3200 Birch Street  
Baker City, OR 97814

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Molly Smith  
OCTM President  
[www.octm.org](http://www.octm.org)

