



# Blueprint & Beyond

## COMPONENT DISTRICT EDITION

A regular update from the  
Superintendent's Office  
for the districts we serve.

# 1. Superintendent's Message

Dear Component District Colleagues,

Across Oregon, we are navigating a time of economic uncertainty that touches every corner of our education system. Budgets are tightening, needs are growing, and it's natural for all of us to feel the weight of those challenges. Yet, moments like this also remind us why our partnership matters most.

When ESDs and component districts work together, we create efficiencies and solutions that none of us could achieve alone. Collaboration allows us to pool expertise, share resources, and expand opportunities for students and educators across our region. It transforms scarcity into creativity and challenge into possibility.

At SOESD, we are committed to finding new ways to stretch every dollar while keeping people at the center of our decisions. The strength of our regional network—built on trust, communication, and shared purpose—remains one of our greatest assets.

As part of that commitment, we want to hear directly from you. Please take a few minutes to complete a [brief survey](#) about how things are going and what next steps you believe will strengthen our collective work. Both the ESD board and I want to hear your feedback that will help shape next steps, guide our partnerships, and ensure that the services we provide continue to meet the needs of your district and community.

As we look ahead, I am confident that by staying connected, transparent, and united around our shared mission, we will not only weather this period of uncertainty but emerge stronger and more aligned in our service to children and families.

Thank you for your partnership and your continued leadership in your schools and communities. Together, we can ensure that Southern Oregon remains a place where collaboration drives innovation and every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Best!  
Mark

## This Edition's Topics!

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- 5.....New SOESD Staff
- 6.....Southern Oregon Success Update: All Together Now

# 2. SOESD Superintendent Feedback

## Your Voice Matters



At SOESD, we're committed to being a human-centered people-first organization, and that starts with listening to you. The SOESD Board of Directors and I want to ensure we're serving your districts in ways that are both meaningful and effective. As part of my commitment to you, I'm gathering feedback on my relationships and service to districts. This survey, shared in the fall, winter, and spring, will guide both my practice and my service to you, helping me calibrate throughout the year to ensure I'm meeting your needs. Your honest feedback is vital to our ability to grow, improve, and continue serving your district and community with care and excellence.

-Mark

Fall Survey:  
SOESD Superintendent  
Survey

Quick  
2-5 min  
survey!

*Click here* 

This fall survey is **open through November 21st**. We'll check in again with a winter survey and a spring survey to keep the feedback flowing all year.





# 3. Your District Liaison: *Bridging District Needs and Services*

SOESD district liaisons have been actively connecting with component districts, and so far, 89% of districts have responded. These conversations are helping us streamline support, understand district needs, share resources, and support local priorities.

## Key Takeaways

- Districts are engaging with resources like the C&E Workbook and requesting support for staff training and crisis response planning.
- Liaisons are helping connect districts with the right SOESD personnel for autism support, speech and language services, and behavioral consultation.
- Collaboration is ongoing to establish regular processes for student support teams and improve communication around student needs and services.

[District Liaison List](#)

*Click here!*

These efforts provide districts with the guidance, tools, and partnerships needed to support student success.



# 4. Substance Use Prevention Training

## *Be a Champion for Change!*



### Summary:

Join us for a one-day professional learning session about substance use prevention. Learn about evidence-based strategies to understand substance use and substance use prevention while helping students to make healthy choices.

### Who Should Attend:

- Classroom teachers
- Counselors
- Health educators
- Administrators



### Learning Highlights:

- Substance use background knowledge and related Oregon laws
- Oregon Health Standards, including substance use, misuse and substance use disorder standards
- Developmentally appropriate ways to provide information to students about substance use
- Creating a safe and inclusive school environment that promotes the well-being of all students, including those experiencing substance use disorder and in recovery

### K-5th Grade Teachers:

- **Date:** 12/8/25
- **Time:** 8-3:30pm
- **Location:** Jackson County Health & Human Services Conference Center, 140 S Holly St, Medford, OR 97501
- **Flyer:** [Link](#)

### 6-12th Grade Teachers:

- **Date:** 12/9/25
- **Time:** 8-3:30pm
- **Location:** Jackson County Health & Human Services Conference Center, 140 S Holly St, Medford, OR 97501
- **Flyer:** [Link](#)

Registration Link for  
K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

*click here!*



Registration Link for  
6-12th Grade Teachers



# 5. Meet Our New SOESD Staff *Since September*



**Colton Cochran,**  
District Controller  
Business Services



**Eva Skuratowicz,**  
SORS Program Manager  
Communications and Partnerships



**Shane Vance,**  
Systems Analyst II  
Technology Services



**Abigail Prawitz,**  
Audiologist  
PVI/Audiology



**Cheri Kuykendall,**  
Administrative Assistant III  
Communications and Partnerships



**Douglas Buckley,**  
Systems Analyst II  
Technology Services



# 6. Southern Oregon Success Update: *All Together Now*

Southern Oregon Success is part of a collaboration that brought University of California, Berkeley Professor John A. Powell, an internationally recognized expert on bridging across differences and bringing communities together, to Ashland on October 6.

Professor Powell (he does not capitalize his name) spoke to a crowd of almost 600 people in the Bowmer Theatre at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival about the critical role of belonging, particularly during this time of social fragmentation and isolation.

He contrasted “breaking stories” which establish outsiders or “others” who are seen as threats to the social order to “bridging stories” which acknowledge that those with opposing viewpoints can share common interests. Professor Powell emphasized the importance of belonging, which involves individuals or communities co-creating what they want rather than inclusion, which occurs when one group has created an environment and others are invited in.

The talk concluded with a panel discussion provided by SOU President Rick Bailly, United Way Executive Director Dee Anne Everson, Black Southern Oregon Alliance Board member D.L. Richardson, and Lomakatski Restoration Project Executive Director Marko Bey.

**Watch Professor Powell's  
Talk Here**



This talk was the launch of All Together Now, a multi-year, multi-generational, multi-cultural collaborative to strengthen communities in our region. The first year will focus on Ashland and in the second year, the collaborative will branch out into Phoenix and Talent. Southern Oregon Success will be the backbone organization of this work and will support the communities in reaching across differences to solve problems and create belonging.