



NEWS & UPDATES

Awaiting the February 2026 Legislative Session

As we begin this new year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your continued dedication and partnership in support of Oregon's educators. Your work—steady, thoughtful, and deeply grounded in the needs of our Oregon students—matters immensely, especially in a moment when clarity and collaboration are vital.

As many of you are aware, Oregon's 2026 legislative short session will begin on Monday, February 2, and conclude on Tuesday, March 10. This session carries particular significance for the Educator Advancement Council, as the Legislature will review the reduction scenarios developed by state agencies, including the proposal that impacts the future of the EAC. We remain committed to transparency during this period and will continue our work as planned while awaiting the outcomes of the session.

Thank you for everything you do to uplift, empower, and strengthen Oregon's educator workforce. I look forward to our continued partnership in the year to come. As a reminder, January 14th is our next Educator Advancement Council meeting, if you would like to tune in.

With appreciation,

Dr. Karen Pérez
Executive Director
Educator Advancement Council

Inside

NEWS & UPDATES

[EAC Status & Budget
Update Page...01](#)

[Regional Educator
Network Updates
Page...02-03](#)

[OTREN Site Visit
Page...04](#)

[Grow Your Own Program
Updates Page...05](#)

[House Bill 3041 Updates
Page...06](#)

[SB 283 Statewide
Mentorship Grant Update
Page...06](#)



NEWS & UPDATES

Regional Educator Network Updates

All grant agreements for the 2025-2027 biennium have now been issued to the Regional Educator Network (REN) grantees, which allocates more than \$38million in funding to ensure all educators across the state, no matter their geographic location or the size of district, has equitable access to high-quality professional learning opportunities.

In addition, the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) has officially approved all 10 Regional Educator Network (REN) four-year plans, making a major milestone for the 2025-2027 biennium. These plans are an important part of Oregon's statewide effort to strengthen systems of support for all educators and are developed in partnership with educators and school districts in each REN. Each plan describes how the REN and its professional learning projects will meet the requirements and policy goals. Educators are encouraged to [connect with their REN](#) to learn more about how to participate in the opportunities being offered through their REN. To view the full REN Plan Summary report, please click [here](#).

Implementation of strategies and activities identified in REN Plans are currently underway. For the 2025-2027 biennium, RENs are providing programs and improvement initiatives focused on supporting educators in the following ways:

1. Early Career Support: All 10 RENs provide mentor support for novice educators, strengthening early career retention and effectiveness through different service delivery models. For example, Eastern Oregon REN (EOREN) pairs novice teachers in rural communities with experienced teachers in other districts or retired teachers. Mentees attend an annual New Teacher Kickstart conference, while mentors receive training and have quarterly check-ins with the program coordinator to ensure high-quality support. Northwest REN (NREN) incorporates instructional rounds, in-field coaching, and differentiated professional learning for mentors in areas like special education, early literacy, and writing. *(continued on page 03)*

Important Dates

**Thursday & Friday,
December 25-26th-** EAC
Offices Closed

January 13-15th-
Legislative Days

January 14, 2026- EAC
Council Meeting 9:00 AM-
12:00 PM

January 14, 2026- EAC
Work Session 12:30 PM-
2:00 PM

January 19th, 2026- EAC
Offices Closed for MLK
Day

**February 2nd- March 9th,
2026-** Legislative Short
Session

**Looking for past or
present EAC Meeting
Materials?**

[Find them here](#)



REN Updates Continued...

Mentees receive targeted support in lesson planning while program leads and principals meet monthly to guide implementation.

2. Professional Learning Access and Support: RENs expand access to professional learning on instructional practices that are responsive to specific educator groups, including rural, ELD, and SPED educators who often face unique challenges. For example, Western REN (WREN) established a regional community of practice specifically for ELD educators focused on best practices and engagement strategies for multilingual learners. Oregon Trail REN and Northwest REN partner with Eastern Oregon University to train K-3 educators in high-quality early literacy practices. Columbia REN (CREN) offers a regional professional learning community for culturally responsive practices and integration of Tribal History/Shared History lessons.

3. Retention Efforts: RENs are addressing stress, fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting inclusive practices. For example, the Southern Oregon REN (SOREN) provides professional development, workshops, and coaching centered on adult well-being to reduce educator burnout. Using the Oregon Transformative Social Emotional Learning (TSEL) Standards, educators have access to customized tools and strategies to support self-regulation, co-regulation, and positive classroom climates. SOREN also incorporates coaching cycles and mentoring to strengthen educators' capacity to manage stress and sustain long-term well-being.

FIND YOUR REGIONAL EDUCATOR NETWORK

[Central Oregon REN \(Crook, Deschutes, & Jefferson counties\)](#)

[Columbia REN \(Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, & Wheeler counties\)](#)

[Douglas REN \(Douglas County\)](#)

[Eastern Oregon REN \(Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, & Wallowa counties\)](#)

[Multnomah-Clackamas REN \(Multnomah & Clackamas counties\)](#)

[Northwest REN \(Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington counties\)](#)

[Oregon Trail REN \(Baker, Morrow, Umatilla, & Union counties\)](#)

[South Coast to Valley REN \(Coos, Curry, Marion, Polk, & Yamhill counties\)](#)

[Southern Oregon REN \(Jackson, Josephine, & Klamath counties\)](#)
[Western REN \(Benton, Lane, Lincoln, & Linn counties\)](#)



EAC Visits Oregon Trail Regional Educator Network

The Oregon Trail Regional Educator Network (OTREN) hosted a dynamic site visit on October 21st at the InterMountain ESD in Pendleton, bringing together regional partners, educators, Council Directors, and state agency staff for a full day of learning, collaboration, and celebration. The visit opened with introductions and an overview of the day, followed by immersive rotations through three project highlights: the EOU Reading Clinic, Impact Teams, and the Counselor & Classified Connections initiatives. Each station offered concrete examples of promising practices and educator-led systems improvements underway across the region.



EAC Council Directors & staff attend a site visit at the Oregon Trail Regional Educator Network in Pendleton, Oregon October 2025

Following lunch and networking, attendees explored additional projects focused on strengthening mentoring systems, including GROW New Teacher Support, CTEACH, and the Administrator Collaborative. A mentor and mentee panel provided meaningful reflections on the support structures that are helping new educators support students and advance in the profession.

The afternoon closed with a celebration of OTREN's recent Professional Development Summit and Summer Series, followed by open Q&A. The visit showcased the depth of collaboration happening across the region and highlighted OTREN's ongoing commitment to educator voice, shared learning, and continuous improvement. To learn more about OTREN and their offerings, visit the [OTREN website](#).



Grow Your Own Program Updates

This biennium, there are 35 Grow Your Own (GYO) grantees across the state supporting approximately 1,300 individuals in every one of Oregon's 36 counties through financial assistance for postsecondary education costs, mentorship, career training, and pathway navigation support activities. Grantees include seven Tribes, 65 Oregon school districts, and 16 education service districts. More than half of grantees serve rural, remote, or frontier districts in Oregon. Classified staff and teachers on emergency/restricted licenses are being supported to become certified educators, particularly rural and multilingual candidates. Grantees and partners are preparing for the investment to end- strengthening effective practices, re-envisioning program structures, and finding alternative funding sources.

The GYOs continue to provide critical support to the future educators in Oregon. As one participant shared, "A year and a half ago, I received an invitation to attend one of the information meetings from the Grow Your Own Program...I took the opportunity that was in front of me. For the very first time in my life, I enrolled in college. I thought higher education was not for me. I put that dream to rest decades ago, but life had other plans for me. I am very close to earning an associates degree and then transferring to a four year university. My hope is to become a dual language elementary school teacher and if everything goes as planned, I will earn my bachelors degree in 2027. The Grow Your Own Program has given me the opportunity to fulfill my dream, attend college and become a teacher."

Another participant reflected on her experience: "I'm currently attending Warner Pacific University. I'm truly loving every step of this journey—learning new things, connecting with classmates, and growing as both a student and a future educator. Being a Grow Your Own scholar has opened doors for me. I have gained valuable experiences and support as I work toward my goal of teaching in my community. I work for the Forest Grove School District, which has given me great opportunities to support students and learn alongside experienced educators. Each day, I see the importance of building connections with students, families, and staff. I appreciate the chance to serve such a diverse group of learners."

The EAC is thrilled to continue to partner with our 35 GYO grantees in the 25-27 biennium as they provide critical support for GYO participants and help ensure a high-quality educator workforce for the future of Oregon.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Sign-Up for EAC News & Updates](#)

EAC PROGRAMS

[Grow Your Own Programs \(GYOs\)](#)

[Regional Educator Networks \(RENs\)](#)

EAC PARTNERS

[Department of Early Learning & Care](#)

[Higher Education Coordinating Commission](#)

[Oregon Department of Education](#)

[Teacher Standards & Practices Commission](#)



HB 3041: Administration of Educator Advancement Council Update

The Oregon Legislature passed [HB 3041](#) in 2025, which transitions the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) from being governed by an intergovernmental agreement to being created under state law—requiring the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to play a central, supporting role. The bill aims to improve the administration of the EAC in order to elevate the voices of educators. The bill focuses on three areas of improvement:

- **Improved Clarity and Alignment with Purpose:** The EAC was created in 2017 as a coalition of state and local education partners that works together to provide support for efforts to align educator advancement and effectiveness. The bill creates clearer statutory guidance for administration of the Council to achieve its goals.
- **Increased Transparency and Collaboration:** The EAC brings educators together with education agency leaders to inform state investments and initiatives impacting educators across the career continuum. These changes create greater transparency in Council membership and increase opportunities for greater collaboration in decision-making.
- **More Efficient Administrative Procedures:** Removing the requirement for an intergovernmental agreement reduces the amount of time and resources needed to revise administrative procedures of the Council, which in turn reduces administrative costs to participating local and state agencies. These changes mean the Council will be able to work more effectively towards its goals.

The former intergovernmental agreement sunsets at the end of 2025, with the revised structure taking effect in January 2026. Current Council members will be re-appointed to their respective seats at the January 14, 2026 Council meeting. In addition, the Council is slated to adopt its revised Policies and Procedures Manual at the meeting, which was reviewed and edited by a subcommittee of the Council over the last six months.

To implement HB 3041, ODE needs to: coordinate appointments, establish administrative systems for the EAC, manage fund distribution mechanisms, formalize rulemaking authority, and ensure the law's phased integration by the start of 2026.

Statewide Mentorship Grant Update

Senate Bill 283 granted \$8 million dollars to grantees who wanted to improve mentorship efforts in their area with a total of 34 grantees. Grantees included Regional Educator Networks (RENs) and districts. The law also authorized a study to better understand Oregon teachers mentorship support needs and the impact of mentorship on teachers. The study was finalized in November 2025 and is now available on the [EAC SB 283 Mentorship website](#).