

2025
LEGISLATIVE
SUMMIT

ACCELERATING AND SUSTAINING PROGRESS FOR OREGON CHILDREN AND EDUCATION



AGENDA



January 15, 2025
Salem, Oregon



Network:
WHC_Guest
No Password
Required

betteroregon.org

8:30 A.M. Registration, Light Breakfast, and Live Music

Enjoy networking and live music over coffee, tea, champurrado, and pastries.

9:15 A.M. Summit Kickoff and Opening Remarks

Janet Soto Rodriguez, Deputy Director, Foundations for a Better Oregon

9:30 A.M. The Heart and Spirit of Tribal Consultation

April Campbell, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Indian Education, Oregon Department of Education; Member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Renée Roman Nose, Native American Student Success Coordinator, Office of Indian Education, Oregon Department of Education; Citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

10:00 A.M. What Unites and Divides Us: Exploring Perspectives in the Room and Across Oregon

Dialogue **Dr. Charlene Williams**, Director, Oregon Department of Education
Louis Wheatley, Strategic Communications Director, Foundations for a Better Oregon

10:45 A.M. From Dollars to Outcomes: Building the Bridge from K-12 Funding to Student Success

Main Stage
Plenary Moderated by **Whitney Grubbs**, Executive Director, Foundations for a Better Oregon
Featuring:
• **Sen. Janeen Sollman**, Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
• **Aryn Frazier**, Executive Director, Center for Black Excellence
• **Christy Perry**, Retired Superintendent, Salem-Keizer and Dallas School Districts
• **Peter Koehler**, Trustee, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation

11:45 A.M. Lunch

Enjoy tacos, aguas frescas, and dessert.

12:15 P.M. Leading With Courage Amid Uncertainty: How States Can Shape the Future of Public Education

National Perspective **José Muñoz**, President, Education Commission of the States

1:00 P.M. Building on What Works: Strategies to Accelerate and Sustain Progress

Breakout Sessions Summit participants are invited to dive deeper into key issues on the legislative agenda in 2025. Learn more about breakout session topics and speakers on the back of this agenda.

1:50 P.M. Call to Action: Commitment, Collaboration, and Courage

Johnna Timmes, Education Initiatives Director, Office of Oregon Governor Tina Kotek

2:00 P.M. Networking and Live Music

Enjoy open time to continue the conversation with Summit speakers and participants.

2:30 P.M. Summit Closes



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BUILDING ON *WHAT WORKS*: STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE AND SUSTAIN PROGRESS



Foundations for a Better Oregon is honored to partner on video production with Outside the Frame, a community-based educational and vocational program training homeless and marginalized youth to be directors of their own films and lives.

Sustaining and Expanding Summer and After-School Programs

Oregon students don't stop learning once the school bell rings at the end of the day. Our state is building momentum to provide more school and community-based learning and enrichment opportunities beyond the school day and academic year. This breakout session will explore why these summer and after-school programs are critical to student success, and explore strategies to sustain and expand these programs for youth across Oregon.

HOSTED BY:

- **Rep. Ricki Ruiz**, Co-Chair, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
- **Rachael Moser**, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Oregon Governor Tina Kotek
- **Alex Senai Riedlinger**, Policy Advocacy Coordinator and Community Organizer, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)

Strengthening Early Literacy and Early Learning

Research clearly shows early learning opportunities put children on the path to a life of curiosity, learning, and success. To increase early literacy and reduce academic disparities, Oregon has expanded access to preschool and launched the Early Literacy Success Initiative. This session will illuminate opportunities to build on these efforts in 2025.

HOSTED BY:

- **Rep. Hoa Nguyen**, Vice Chair, House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services
- **Dana Hepper**, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Children's Institute
- **Jessica Cobian**, Policy and Government Affairs Manager, Stand for Children Oregon

Amplifying the Power of Oregon's Student Success Plans

Over the last decade, Oregon has created six culturally and identity-specific Student Success Plans to help close disparities and strengthen support for historically underserved communities. These plans lead with community expertise and experience, design targeted strategies to improve student learning and well-being, and invest in school and community-based programs to implement these strategies statewide. This session will examine how Oregon's Student Success Plans can drive transformative change with greater investment and cross-system connections.

HOSTED BY:

- **Mercedes Elizalde**, Director of Advocacy, Latino Network
- **LaNae Johnson**, Senior Program Officer, Oregon Community Foundation



Foundations for a Better Oregon's 2025 Legislative Summit is made possible in part by the Oregon State Capitol Foundation.