

80% of Oregonians think our schools should be among the best in the nation;

45% believe Oregon schools are currently doing a good job

What else do Oregonians say about our schools?

- ▶ 86% agree that attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers is the key to accelerated learning and teaching
- ▶ 83% agree that lack of parental support is an obstacle to school success
- ▶ 82% believe lack of stable and adequate funding is an obstacle to school success
- ▶ 77% believe too many students are “falling through the cracks” of Oregon schools
- ▶ 75% agree that increases in teacher salaries should be based on performance, not seniority
- ▶ 60% believe there is too much waste and inefficiency in local public schools

The Chalkboard Project is an independent, non-partisan organization formed in 2004 by five of Oregon’s leading philanthropic foundations to explore the challenges facing our K-12 public schools and seek solutions.

Those challenges are significant, from high dropout rates to student achievement results that are average at best. Chalkboard brings a critical voice — the public’s — into the debate about how to improve schools. By merging proven practices to raise student achievement with public will, Chalkboard is working to bring meaningful change to Oregon’s schools — change that can be measured in higher student achievement and greater confidence among Oregonians that their school dollars are being invested wisely.



For more information:

Chalkboard Project

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Our mission:

Uniting Oregonians
to make our
schools among the
nation’s best

Merging research and public will to make Oregon's schools among the best in the nation



An initiative of **Foundations for a Better Oregon**

Foundations for a Better Oregon, Chalkboard's parent organization, was established by:

- The Collins Foundation
- The Ford Family Foundation
- The JELD-WEN Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- The Oregon Community Foundation

Chalkboard has researched best practices to raise student achievement, and touched an estimated 100,000 Oregonians in its efforts to learn what citizens think of their schools and how they'd like to see them improved.

Research shows there are some clear ways to move Oregon schools from "average" to "excellent." Put a great teacher in every classroom and a great principal in every school. Help parents become more engaged in their children's learning. Make sure school funding is targeted to the areas that really make a difference in raising student achievement. Eliminate the ups and downs of Oregon's school funding system and give our schools the stability they need. Provide more public accountability for how school dollars are spent.

Chalkboard is working to make a difference in all of these areas and many others through a combination of efforts and partnerships. Activities include:

Advocating for legislation to provide more mentoring and other professional support for teachers, target dollars to key initiatives such as reducing K-1 class size and enhancing early reading support, create a level of guaranteed per-student spending, maximize savings in school district business and transportation operations, and other research-based initiatives.

Providing grants to individual schools, districts and education organizations to use online technology to connect parents with teachers and other school staff, and to develop strategies for engaging "hard to reach" families.

Financing independent projects such as the **Open Book\$ Web site** (www.openbooksproject.org), which provides easy-to-understand information about how Oregon school districts spend money; the **CLASS Project**, a pilot program in three school districts to explore new career and compensation options for teachers; and **Running Start**, a set of materials that helps schools and families break down the barriers that often keep them from communicating with each other.



To contact the Chalkboard Project

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Oregon school spending information

www.openbooksproject.org