



Chalkboard Project

*Inspiring Oregonians to do what it takes to make
our public schools among the nation's best*



What is Chalkboard?

The Chalkboard Project is the first initiative of Foundations for a Better Oregon, created by five independent Oregon foundations in 2003 to address critical public policy issues. Chalkboard is a collaborative effort to improve our state's K-12 public schools. We are Oregonians – parents, voters, neighbors, mothers, grandfathers – who believe every public school student deserves a quality education that will lead to success in college, in the workplace and in life.



Chalkboard is Oregon's neutral education information broker. We don't have the answers. But the people of this state do. Our job is to connect Oregonians with the best research possible, so that people may decide for themselves what kinds of solutions will transform our schools into some of the best in the nation.



What are we doing?

Chalkboard has completed more than three years' worth of research, combining public opinion polling and practitioner focus groups, research on the best practices in education, and public meetings throughout the state. Our aim is to help create a more informed and engaged public, who understand and address the tough choices and trade-offs required to build strong schools, and to help Oregonians talk through the tough issues of quality, accountability and funding. Chalkboard has created a long-term action plan to build strong schools, and is committed to working with policy makers, educators and community leaders to put that plan into action.



Chalkboard supported several initiatives in the 2007 legislative session to improve early learning opportunities for children, support educators, identify and capture savings in school district business practices, and stabilize school system funding. We continue to provide targeted grants and other support to districts working to improve outreach to parents, businesses and other members of the community. In 2006, we launched the OpenBook\$ Web site (www.openbooksproject.org) to provide information about how Oregon school districts spend money. And in spring 2007, we initiated the CLASS (Creative Leadership and Student Success) Project, a pilot project to expand career opportunities for teachers and other staff in selected school districts, and to reward those educators for meeting student achievement goals.



Ready to help?

Please learn more about Chalkboard's work and how you can help by visiting us online at www.chalkboardproject.org, or by calling 1-877-YOUR-K12.