



The Oregonian

Sherwood, Forest Grove districts win grants

Chalkboard Project - Extra pay will go to teachers who raise performance

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The Chalkboard Project announced Monday that the Sherwood, Forest Grove and Tillamook school districts will be the first participants in a pilot project to provide extra pay for educators who raise student achievement.

The nonprofit organization, funded by Oregon foundations with a mission to improve K-12 education in Oregon, will award millions in grants to the three districts to develop and test a model of increased training, pay and leadership roles for educators tied to improved student academic performance.

"This pilot is much broader than a standard 'pay for performance,' system," said Sue Hildick, the project's president. "What we're creating is an enhanced professional development, leadership and evaluation opportunity for all educators, especially teachers."

The applications required the support of the school boards, administrators and unions in the districts. If all goes well, Hildick said, school districts will research and design their programs in spring and summer and launch them in the fall for the 2007-'08 school year.

Each school district will get a \$10,000 to \$30,000 planning grant, up to \$40,000 in technical assistance and \$200 to \$400 per student for incentive pay, for multiple years, depending on the design.

The Tillamook School District, with about 2,100 students, plans to leverage its use of experienced and knowledgeable teachers as peer coaches, especially in reading, science, technology and mathematics, said Ed Armstrong, its grants and foundation director.

In the Sherwood district, which has about 4,100 students, officials sought -- and won -- approval from the project to try the effort with all its workers, both classified employees and certified teachers.

The Forest Grove school district has an enrollment of about 6,100 students.

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