Remote Learning Advisory Committee Overview & Application Process

September 22, 2021

The Department of Education (ODE) is establishing a Remote Learning Advisory Committee to support ongoing work to update and revisit policies for remote learning models in Oregon. This committee will help shape engagement and policy recommendations covering a wide array of topics involving online, home-based, and other remote learning where students and teachers are not in the same physical location for more than half of the student's instructional time. The advisory group will be composed of volunteers and recommendations from the group will be published in nonbinding reports that may be used to inform and shape policies.

Remote learning programs have expanded across Oregon for well over a decade in the form of specialized courses available to students in rural communities, hybrid options for local schools, virtual public charter schools, and home-based options. Most recently, remote learning has become a familiar part of many student's education through the COVID-19 pandemic response. Even with a return to in-person learning for the significant majority of public schools, remote learning will likely continue to be a significant part of K-12 public education. Accordingly, we are seeking input on how the current education policy framework can be improved in service of student learning and equitable learning outcomes.

Over the next 18-24 months, ODE and the Remote Learning Advisory Committee will be meeting and co-facilitating multiple rounds of engagement with education leaders, teachers, students, families, and education partners. The goal of this engagement process is to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning in online and remote programs is commensurate with brick and mortar programs and offers equitable access to learning support for students who have been and are currently systemically excluded or underserved. This includes ensuring students in remote learning programs have access to:

a. School- or district-provided devices, digital resources, and connectivity that is conducive to remote or online learning. Appropriate access to and instructional time with qualified educators;

b. Culturally appropriate and anti-racist curriculum and quality instructional materials aligned to Oregon content standards;

c. Accommodations, modifications, differentiated instruction, and research-based strategies for all students including students experiencing disabilities, and emergent bilingual students;

d. A well-rounded education with opportunities for peer engagement, mental health supports, and social emotional learning; and

e. A sense of belonging and safety for LGBTQ2SIA+ students and students of color where students' intersecting identities are honored and affirmed within the classroom and school culture by educators and the whole school community.

Advisory committee members will commit to participating in monthly meetings, planning and co-facilitating engagement sessions with ODE staff, and drafting policy recommendations for the state. Each month committee members can expect to spend 2-4 hours in online meetings and 2-3 hours reading, researching, and reviewing materials offline. All activities will be conducted remotely.

ODE is seeking to establish an advisory committee made up of Oregonians who reflect the diversity of the public K-12 student population. To achieve this, the Department will ask applicants to identify demographic and experiential information that corresponds to student demographics and experiences. This includes race, ethnicity, gender, language, geography, students experiencing disabilities, and families experiencing houselessness. Ideally, the committee will also include representation from charter, district, alternative schools, parents, students, and other community organizations and partners. To help ODE meet this goal, applicants will be asked a variety of questions about demographics and experience throughout the application process.

To apply, please complete the [Remote Learning Advisory Committee Application](#) by 11:59 PM on Thursday, October 14, 2021.

The first two committee meetings are scheduled for:
- Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10 AM – 12 PM
- Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3 PM – 5 PM

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Greenbaum at ken.greenbaum@ode.state.or.us or Kate Pattison at kate.pattison@ode.state.or.us.