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## OREGON STATE SENATOR

### NEWS FROM **Alan DeBoer**

## Student Success Tours

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Hello Friends,

School is out for the summer and I hope all of you are staying cool during these hot days.

At the beginning of the year, I was appointed to serve on the [Joint Committee on Student Success](#). The committee is comprised with members in both the House and Senate. The purpose of the committee is to hear from students, teachers, administrators, local leaders and the public about what they need to help students succeed.

Oregon graduation rates are [among the worst in the nation](#). Oregon class sizes are also some of the largest in the country. Oregon also ranks the worst state in the country for [mental health care](#). The mental health care aspect for students is a reoccurring theme for both teachers, administrators, and students.

Since March, the Committee has traveled across the state to many different school districts. So far, we have traveled to Eugene, Springfield, Marcola, Baker City, Hermiston, Boardman, Irrigon, Pendleton, Arlington, Milwaukie, Happy Valley, Clackamas, Woodburn, Gervais, Medford, Eagle Point, Phoenix, and Grants Pass.

For the most part, each of these tours lasts for twelve hours. Before students went on their summer vacation, we would meet with them in the morning for a couple hours. After that, we would then tour the campus and their facility. In the afternoon we meet with stakeholders and community leaders for a round table discussion on the issues these school districts are facing. Finally, we end the evening with a two-hour town hall

so the public can give us input.

## Students

I have very much enjoyed talking to students over the last few months. We have met with hundreds of students of all different ages and backgrounds. Altogether, I have met on eight separate occasions to talk to student and listen to their concerns and aspirations. Most have been very candid and shared their experiences and impressions of Oregon's education system. They have discussed a wide range of issues including homelessness, teacher effectiveness, family issues, class diversity, and access to special programs.



## Facility Tours



Site tours have included dual-language immersion programs, magnet schools, neighborhood schools, charter schools, CTE programs, Preschool Promise sites, rural schools, suburban schools, a Tribal Attendance pilot school, and an Oregon Youth Authority juvenile corrections school.

We have been on twenty-five site tours at high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and early learning sites. We have visited some of Oregon's small schools as well as large ones. We have also visited one of

Oregon's lowest-performing districts for graduation rates and one of the state's highest performers. Some districts are struggling more than others, and some districts are doing so well, their superintendent has won a national award for showing the greatest leadership to promote student learning. The most recent report for all of Oregon's school performance can be found here.

## Round Table Discussions



We have had six education stakeholder roundtable discussions attended by hundreds of teachers, administrators, parents, community members, school employees, school board members, business stakeholders, and early learning specialists. The teachers and administrators have spoken about the need for more funding and the current funding challenges,

class sizes being too big, educator workforce needs, declining opportunities for students, student behavioral health, facility needs, and many other topics. The

business community would like to see where these school districts can be more effective with cost containment and partnerships for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

## Public Hearings

All together we have had six public hearings. Every public hearing can be watched by clicking the link [here](#). In the coming months, the committee will travel to Portland, Central Oregon, and Oregon's coast. At each stop, the committee will continue to meet with students and stakeholders, tour a variety of programs, and hold public hearings. If you would like to attend a public hearing for these locations, below is where you will be able to find us.

### **September 13, 7 p.m.**

Auditorium Ridgeview High School

4555 SW Elkhorn Ave, Redmond

### **September 27, 7 p.m.**

Auditorium President James Madison High School

2735 NE 82nd Ave, Portland, OR 97220

### **October 10, 7 p.m.**

Auditorium Marshfield High School

972 Ingersoll Ave, Coos Bay

If you would like to attend any of these meetings, please contact my office for more details. Thank you and I will keep you updated.

Yours truly,

Senator Alan DeBoer

Senate District 3

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