

OREGON UNPLUGGED COALITION

Elevate. Educate. Activate.

Oregon Legislative Days

September 8–10, 2026 · Early Childhood & Education Committee Briefing

PREPARED BY THE OREGON UNPLUGGED COALITION

Legislative Days are the interim convenings at which committees hold informational hearings on topics that may lead to legislation in upcoming sessions, receive updates on prior implementations, and hear reports from state agencies and task forces. These meetings are where the 2027 session's education agenda begins to take shape. All sessions listed below are held at the Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE, Salem.

The agendas below are drawn from the Oregon Legislative Information System and reflect what was posted as of September 3, 2026. Committee agendas are updated on a rolling basis and remain subject to change.

ORU General Flow

- Come Join Us! ORU has carpools each way - send us an email at hello@orunplugged.org and we can coordinate with you re: timing to Salem and back home again.
- Overnight: know someone in Salem who wouldn't mind hosting us? Or have a lodging recommendation - let us know at hello@orunplugged.org
- Dress: comfortable business casual. We'll also have OR Unplugged t-shirts and buttons!
- Bring: any snacks you might want on hand or things to keep you comfortable throughout the day.

Each Day

- There are general events all day long.
- Committee Meetings - we'll list the relevant ones below along with some information about the meeting and its agenda.
- 15 minute meetings with legislators - so far we have 8 on the books. We are hugely grateful to Ross Swartzendruber for arranging these.

OR Unplugged Meetings Still Being Finalized:

We will update this section daily as we continue to finalize the meetings below.

Virtual:

- [Rep. Sarah Finger McDonald](#) (Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water and Member of the House Interim Committee On Education)
- [Rep. Willy Chotzen](#) (Co-Chair of the Joint Committee On Information Management and Technology and Vice-Chair of the House Interim Committee On Judiciary)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

House Interim Committee on Early Childhood

8:30 a.m. · Hearing Room C · Organizational and informational meeting

The committee will first adopt committee rules, then convene an informational meeting with invited speakers only.

- **Overview of the Department of Early Learning and Care** — Alyssa Chatterjee, Early Learning Systems Director, Department of Early Learning and Care
- **Overview of the Early Learning Sector** — Elizabeth Farrar Campbell, Chair, Early Learning Council; Lisa Harnisch, Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub; Eva Manderson, Northwest Regional Education Service District; Karen Prow, NeighborImpact Child Care Resource & Referral
- **Overview of Child Care Deserts in Oregon** — Megan Pratt, Associate Professor of Practice, Oregon State University Extension
- **OSU Cascades Little Kits Update** — Christine Pollard, Interim Chancellor and Dean, Oregon State University Cascades

Pencil Rally 4 Education: Our Kids Can't Wait!

11:00 a.m. · Capitol Steps · Rally

Join Pencil, Senator Janeen Sollman, and other lawmakers and advocates on the Capitol Steps to make it clear: We want real education reform. Kids are welcome (and encouraged) to attend!

Emergency Board Interim Subcommittee on Higher Education

11:30 a.m. · Hearing Room G · Work session

Consent grant work session including four Department of Education items: School Security, Substance Abuse Treatment, Career Pathways, and Lead Remediation. Higher Education Coordinating Commission items are also on the agenda.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Senate Interim Committee on Education

8:30 a.m. · Hearing Room B · Informational meeting, invited speakers only

This is the session of greatest relevance to our coalition's work.

- **Legacy Success Project Report** — Teresa Alonso Leon, Primary Consultant, and Angelo Arredondo, Program Manager, Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training; Phil DeVries, Director of Innovation and Expansion, Legacy Success Project
- **Media Literacy** — presenters to be determined
- **Education Policy Related to Artificial Intelligence** — Heena Kuwayama, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States; Dan Rea, Head of Business Development and Strategy, and Jeffrey Riley, Executive Director, Day of AI; Rick Cotterell, Principal, Umatilla High School and Clara Brownell Middle School; Soraya Rincon and Wyatt Wilhelm, students, Umatilla High School
- **Forestry Workforce Study** — speakers to be determined, Oregon Employment Department and Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Senate Interim Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

8:30 to 11:00 a.m. · Hearing Room 60 · Informational meeting · Spanish interpretation available

The full agenda spans adult and youth behavioral health system capacity. The items below are those most relevant to early childhood and family-facing partners.

- **Youth Behavioral Health System Capacity** — Chelsea Holcomb, Child, Family and Lifespan Services Director, Behavioral Health Division, and Rusha Grinstead, Medicaid Policy Manager for Children & Families, Oregon Health Authority
- **Substance Abuse Treatment for Youth** — Annaliese Dolph, Director, and Wes Rivers, Senior Policy Analyst, Alcohol & Drug Policy Commission; Tony Vezina, 4D Recovery; Sharon Dursi Martin, Harmony Academy; Simon Fulford, Parrott Creek
- **Child Care Resource & Referral** — Alyssa Chatterjee, Department of Early Learning and Care; Eva Manderson, Northwest Regional Education Service District; Karen Prow, NeighborImpact
- **Home Visiting** — Dana Hepper, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Children's Institute; Cara Copeland, Stately Pine Consulting; Judy Reidt-Parker, Director, Start Early Consulting

OR Unplugged Meets with [Representative Jules Walters](#)

3:15 p.m. · H-489

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

OR Unplugged Meets with [Representative Court Boice](#)

8:00 a.m. · H-476

Joint Emergency Board

8:00 a.m. · Hearing Room 40 · Work session

The full board takes up the education-related consent grants advanced by its subcommittees, including the Department of Education items listed under September 8.

House Interim Committee on Higher Education

12:30 p.m. · Hearing Room C · Organizational meeting, then invited testimony

Following adoption of committee rules, the agenda includes one item of direct interest to K–12 partners.

- **Science of Reading in Educator Preparation Programs** — Bill Rhoades, Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways, and Rachel Alpert, Executive Director, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission; Ronda Fritz, Executive Director, EOU Reading Clinic, and Rae Ette Newman, Dean, College of Education, Eastern Oregon University; Dr. Jesse Longhurst, Southern Oregon University; Susan Gardner, Dean, College of Education, Oregon State University
- **Legacy Success Project Report** — Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training
- **Workforce Pell Implementation** — Julia Pontoni, Chief of Strategy, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- **House Bill 4124 (2026) Update** — Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

OR Unplugged Meets with [Representative Julie Fahey, Speaker of the House](#)

2:30 p.m. · H-271

Notes for Our Members

No House Education Committee meeting is currently posted.

As of this writing, the House Committee on Education has no agenda posted for these Legislative Days. Because agendas are added on a rolling basis, this may change. The Oregon Unplugged Coalition will circulate an update to partners if a meeting is scheduled.

The Senate Education agenda is where our concerns land.

The pairing of a media literacy panel with an artificial intelligence panel — the latter featuring an ed-tech organization alongside a district principal and two student presenters — is the clearest signal to date of how the 2027 session may frame technology in Oregon classrooms.

Because these are invited-speaker sessions, the presenter list is effectively the agenda. We encourage school board members, superintendents, clinicians, and parent advocates who follow this issue to attend in person or watch the livestream.

How to Participate

Livestream and recordings of all legislative meetings are available through the Oregon State Legislature's citizen engagement portal at oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/Legislative-Video.aspx. Written comment on a committee meeting may be submitted up to 48 hours after the meeting is scheduled to begin; registration to give public comment closes 30 minutes before the meeting begins. The Capitol is located at 900 Court Street NE, Salem.

The Oregon Unplugged Coalition is a statewide nonprofit organization founded by pediatricians, educators, and parents. We work with school boards, district leaders, legislators, and families to advance phone-free schools, ed-tech accountability, and healthier childhoods across Oregon.

orunplugged.org · [IRL Beats URL](#)