



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-06

PRESERVING STUDENT INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon ranks 48th in the nation in reading and 49th in mathematics at fourth grade, outcomes that threaten the future success of Oregon students; and

WHEREAS, Oregon ranks 47th in the nation in instructional time requirements, 5% below the national average, providing fewer hours of direct student contact time learning than other states, which limits opportunities for students to engage in consistent high-quality instruction; and

WHEREAS, research shows increased instructional time when paired with effective teaching practices is positively associated with improved educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, studies find social, emotional and behavioral benefits from increasing student contact time; and

WHEREAS, budgetary pressures are causing school districts to consider reducing student instructional time, which will further erode student learning opportunities and deepen existing gaps in academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure all Oregon students have access to sufficient, high-quality instructional time to achieve grade level proficiency and long-term school and life success; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education in establishing policy for the administration and operation of public elementary and secondary schools shall consider best practices to meet the needs of students and an efficient elementary and secondary school system; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no statewide policy or directive that explicitly addresses the preservation of student instructional time or prohibits its reduction when school districts consider adjustments to instructional hours.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TINA KOTEK, Governor of the State of Oregon and the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Oregon, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:



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IT IS ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) shall request the State Board of Education (SBE) immediately initiate emergency rulemaking that prioritizes and preserves current student instructional time to ensure that time is not reduced further than the current level at the time the Executive Order becomes effective.
2. ODE shall communicate to any school district that has adopted or implemented a reduction in student instructional time for the 2025-26 or 2026-27 school year prior to the effective date of this Executive Order that within 90 days of the effective date of this Order said school district shall submit a plan to ODE detailing how the district will restore student instructional time to no less than 2024-25 levels no later than the beginning of the 2027-28 school year.
3. **Definitions:**
 - a. “Student Instructional Time” means the total hours students are at school, bell-to-bell, including recess, lunch, passing time, and hours of instructional time.
 - b. “Hours of Instructional Time” in Oregon Administrative Rule means the hours Oregon students spend in planned learning activities or assessments under the supervision of a licensed or registered teacher or supervised educational assistant, requiring 900 hours (K-8), 990 hours (grades 9–11), and 966 hours (grade 12) annually.
4. **Requirements:**
 - a. **Minimum Time Expectations:** Oregon school districts commit to ensuring that student instructional time is not reduced further than the current level at the time the Executive Order becomes effective.
 - b. **Prohibition on Time Waivers:** Effective immediately, ODE is prohibited from granting or renewing waivers that allow schools to operate below the current minimum hours of instructional time requirement under Oregon Administrative Rule, including Division 22, except where required in the case of declared national or state disaster or public health emergency.



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c. Restoration of Previously Reduced Student Instructional Time:

Plans for restoring reduced student instructional time shall include clear timelines, specific actions, and accountability measures ensuring the full restoration of student instructional time. If a district, at the direction of their board, chooses not to restore lost student instructional time, the district must publicly explain their justification for that choice. ODE shall review, approve, and monitor these plans to ensure compliance with this Order.

d. Revision of Hours of Instructional Time Definitions Under Division

22: ODE shall request the SBE to initiate emergency rulemaking leading to permanent rules that rescind provisions under Division 22 that permit school districts to count up to 30 hours of staff professional development time and 30 hours of parent-teacher conferences toward required hours of instructional time. The revised rule shall ensure that hours of instructional time requirements reflect actual student-teacher classroom engagement time.

5. Monitoring: ODE shall track and publish once a year the student instructional time of Oregon's school districts.

The Order shall remain in effect until the actions set forth above are implemented or Governor directs otherwise.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 15th day of April, 2026.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE