

**March 22, 2013**

**Klamath Falls City Schools**

**KFCS' District Newsletter**

**What is the Achievement Compact?**

You likely have heard about the new governor's mandate for K-12 districts, colleges, and universities called the Achievement Compact. This initiative has received a great deal of press over the last year. However, most of what is said and printed about the initiative is vague and even misleading. So just what is this requirement and what does it mean for KFCS?

Last year, the governor and his advisors devised the idea of an obligation that would be demanded of school districts to set projections for groups of students, labeled economically disadvantage subgroups, in student achievement areas. Numbers were also required for those labeled, "Talented and Gifted." These best guesses would represent what districts thought these students would achieve in the years ahead.

The student categories include special education, non-English speaking students, Native Americans, Hispanics, students from homes of poverty, and so forth. The target areas include high school graduation, third-grade reading proficiency, fifth-grade math proficiency, sixth-grade attendance, eighth-grade math proficiency, percent of ninth graders with six or more high school credits, and percent of graduating seniors with at least nine college credits.

A representative group of staff members are required to approve numbers for these categories which then go to the school board for the formal endorsement. The goal is to have all students in all subgroups in all the categories accomplish the desired targets at 100% by 2025. Colleges and universities must do the same in categories predetermined for them.

The other hope is that by 2025 this "Compact" will cause 40% of Oregon students to graduate from four-year colleges, 40% graduate from two-year institutions and the remaining 20% graduate from high school. This would require 100% high school graduation at the same time that graduation requirements increase exponentially. Under the current, less rigorous system, 66% of Oregon students graduate from high school.

It is unclear how speculating numbers for each category for nine different student groups will cause better school results, but that is the expressed intent of the obligatory work to complete the "Compact" and send it to the state. It is also unclear why this is called a compact as it is a requirement and not an agreement and it obligates only one of the two parties in the venture.

Be that as it may, KFCS has completed the number-setting process for 2012-13. The advisory employee group has approved the projected numbers. Next, the KFCS' Board of Directors will act on the recommendation before July 1<sup>st</sup>. These hunches will then be submitted to the Oregon Department of Education for their approval.

**Other Notes:**

1. KFCS is now taking applications for summer construction-worker openings to help with the interior remodeling of sections of Ponderosa School to develop the sixth-grade wing of the building for the start of the next school year. This interior work will start on May

22. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, applications may be picked up at the KFCS' Human Resource Department located in the Lucile O'Neill building at 1336 Avalon Street.

2. On May 5-9 the Junior Achievement (JA) Program, Finance Park, will be at the Fairgrounds. This program has students complete a simulation in which they make decisions related to spending and staying within a budget in about 12 different spending areas. In preparation for this activity, Ponderosa social studies teachers are teaching a comprehensive consumer education unit to eighth-grade students. Seventh-grade students are also receiving personal finance information through Junior Achievement volunteers. This grounding in financial information is valuable knowledge that will help students be better money managers when they become adults. JA needs volunteers for that week to serve as student guides for the activity or to help set up and take down the displays. Please call Deanna Wilson at 541-884-1190 if you are interested in helping. You may also email her ([DWilson@ja-pdx.org](mailto:DWilson@ja-pdx.org)). This is the first year Oregon's JA will have Finance Park and our area has more middle school students participating than any other area of the state. Please also call or email Mrs. Wilson if you would like to volunteer to be a JA classroom presenter. They are always in need of more community members to help in this way.
3. One of our district goals is to increase school-and-home and school-and-community partnerships. A good example of this is happening at Roosevelt that has started after-school clubs utilizing community volunteers. This initiative has been extremely popular with the students as evidenced by more students signing up than available seats in each offering will allow. Roosevelt mother, Alishia Huntoon, is coordinating this effort.

Another example is happening at Mills School where a joint venture with local artists is bringing artists into the school to teach classes and display their work. This is a great way to utilize local talent to enrich student lives.

A third option is happening through KCC where a program called, "The Advanced Diploma Program" allows KU students to take a full year of college at KCC free of charge. KU Principal, Jeff Bullock, is coordinating this program. Another high-school partnership program is for students at both KU and Link River. It is the Credit for Proficiency Program that allows juniors and seniors to take part in internships in business and organizations across the community.

4. Recently data has been analyzed comparing number of student days across school districts in the state. The state average is 166 school days. KFCS has 176 days - that is one of their highest in the state. Having more learning time is a great advantage for our students.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in KFCS news. If you are not a regular recipient of this free newsletter and would like to be, please respond to this email and let us know.