

Board Talking Points

April 2026

Spring is in the air! It's always a great time to enjoy outdoor sports and activities.

Legislative Session The 2026 legislative session ended in March. Due to the extensive efforts of the education lobby, funding for K-12 programs was maintained for 26-27. The legislature is to be commended for “keeping us whole,” without utilizing reserves to balance the budget; the legislature reduced government positions through attrition.

On April 17, superintendents will meet in Portland to begin strategizing for the 2027 session.

Interim Assessments A key component of Oregon's accountability initiative is the implementation of state-approved interim assessments. These diagnostic tools are designed to provide timely, localized data for educators. ODE approved four vendors for districts to choose from. IMESD is one of four ESDs leading a statewide process to negotiate reduced consortium pricing for districts.

Crystal Apple Awards A highlight of the year is the annual Crystal Apple Ceremony, in which regional educators are recognized for their contribution to the field. Dates are as follows:

- **Union County** Monday, May 4, 5:15 PM, Eastern Oregon University, Gilbert Event Center
- **Umatilla/Morrow** Monday, May 11, 5:15 PM, Pendleton Convention Center

MISSION

To provide outstanding customer service to our school districts in four areas: special education, technology, school improvement, and administrative services. IMESD strives to ensure the success of every child by providing equitable services to close the opportunity gap.