Josette Green, Executive Director
www.OregonStudentAid.gov
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Oregon Student Access Commission
"Promising Opportunities"

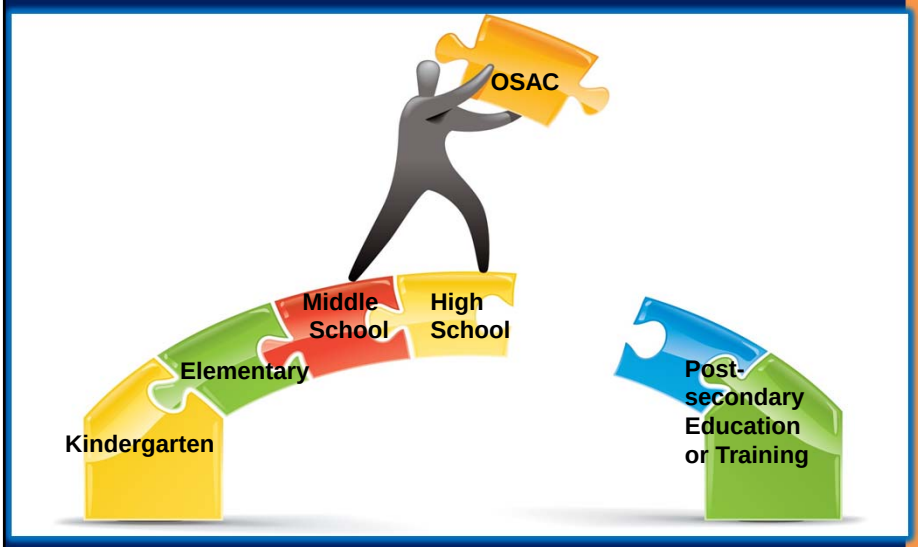
Oregon Student Access Commission
(formerly Oregon Student **Assistance** Commission)

Mission

To create a college-going culture for all Oregonians by providing access through information, mentoring, and financial support.

Vision

An organization of innovation and excellence in a leading college-going state.

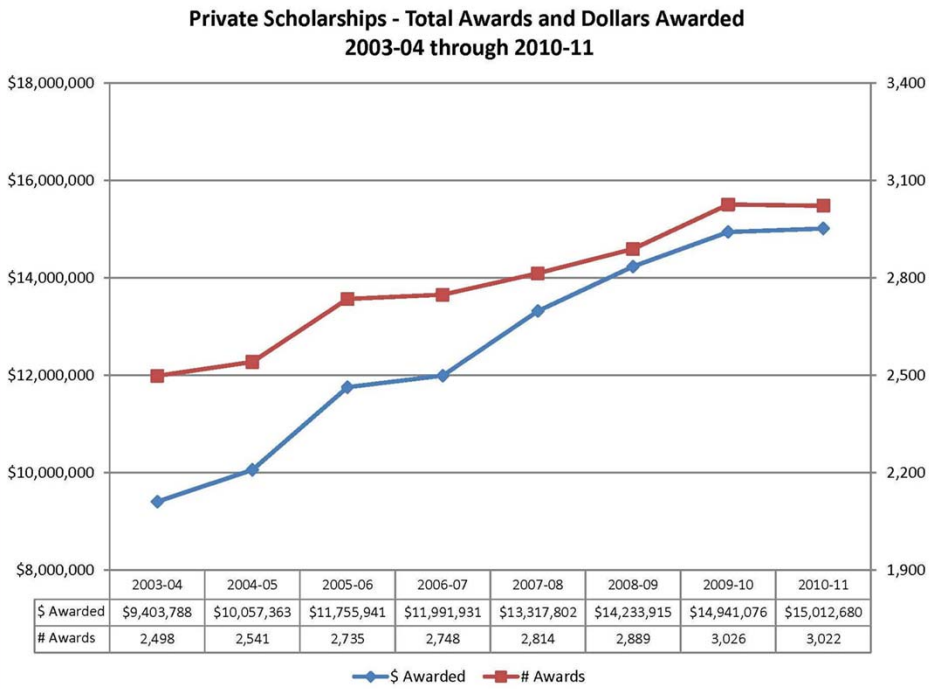


OSAC Programs

- ASPIRE - the state's pre-college mentoring program to help students create a "plan of choice" to access education and training beyond high school.
- Scholarships – A partnership with more than 400 Oregon private donors, foundations and employers to provide scholarships administered by OSAC.
- Oregon Opportunity Grant – the state's only need-based grant to help disadvantaged college students.

OSAC Scholarship Program

- OSAC is an innovator as one of two state agencies in the nation to create a scholarship program.
- Students can select from more than 400 scholarships using **one electronic application**.
- More than **$15 million** in scholarships were awarded to more than **3,022 students** for 2010-11.
- Please donate or create your own scholarship.



	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
$ Awarded	$9,403,788	$10,057,363	$11,755,941	$11,991,931	$13,317,802	$14,233,915	$14,941,076	$15,012,680
# Awards	2,498	2,541	2,735	2,748	2,814	2,889	3,026	3,022

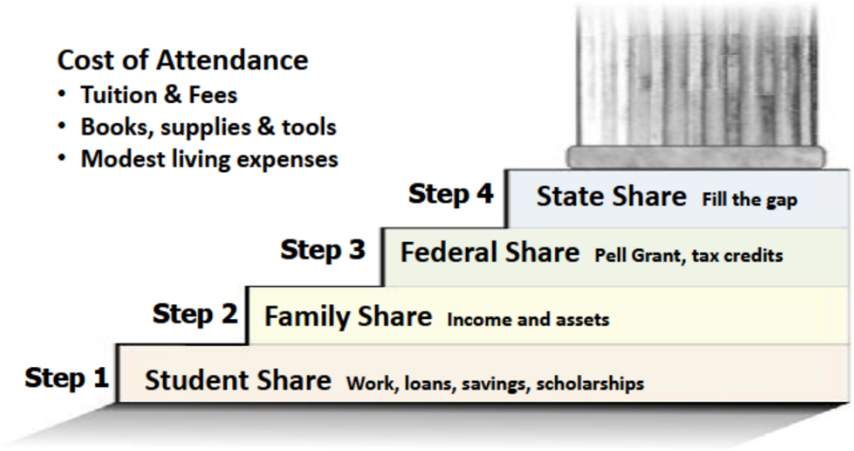
Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)

- The state's primary need-based grant
- Students apply by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- More than **$95 million** in OOG grants were awarded to more than **56,000 students** for 2009-11
- Awards are based on a Shared Responsibility Model formula implemented in 2008

The Shared Responsibility Model

A shared responsibility and partnership among students, their families/households, the federal government, and the state to meet college costs and increase educational attainment statewide.

Cost of Attendance
- **Tuition & Fees**
- **Books, supplies & tools**
- **Modest living expenses**



Source: Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Access & Affordability Working Group, 2006.

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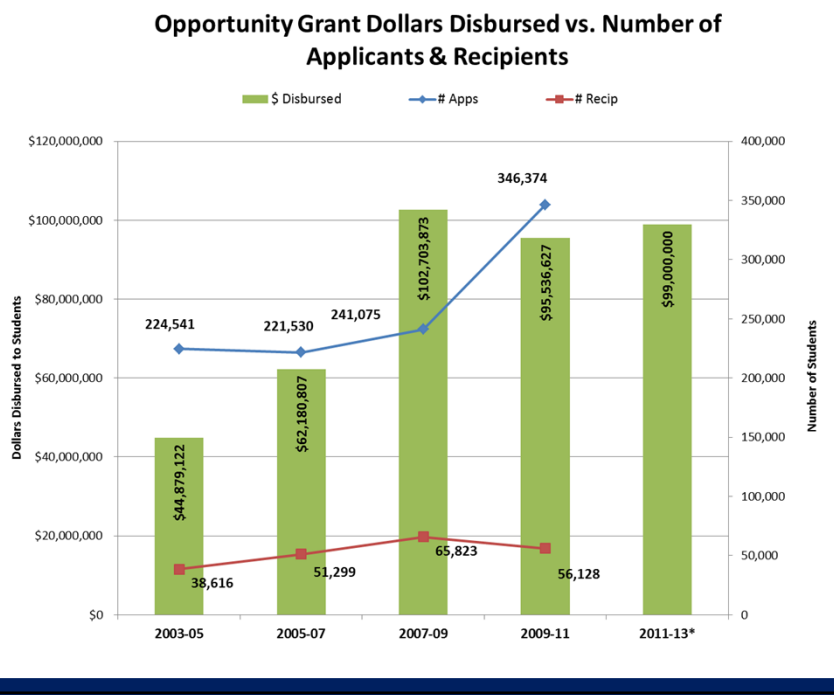


ASPIRE

ASPIRE (Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone) is Oregon's mentoring program for middle school and high school students that began in 1998.

Today ASPIRE serves students in 125 sites.

Every student receives one-on-one mentoring and leaves high school with a purpose and a "plan of choice" to begin executing now for long-term success.

ASPIRE Program Structure

- Administrative Support
- Training

- Initiates program

- Receives partnership grant
- Volunteer recruitment
- Training

- One-on-one with students

- Graduates with a "plan of choice"

ASPIRE Volunteer Mentors

- Extend and enhance the reach of guidance counselors if counselors are even available.
- Help students research careers online.
- Help students research schools online.
- Help with scholarship searches.
- Help students complete the admissions process including proofreading applications and essays.
- Help students complete the financial-aid process.
- Keep students focused, encouraged and on a timeline.

Three ASPIRE Programs

Traditional ASPIRE

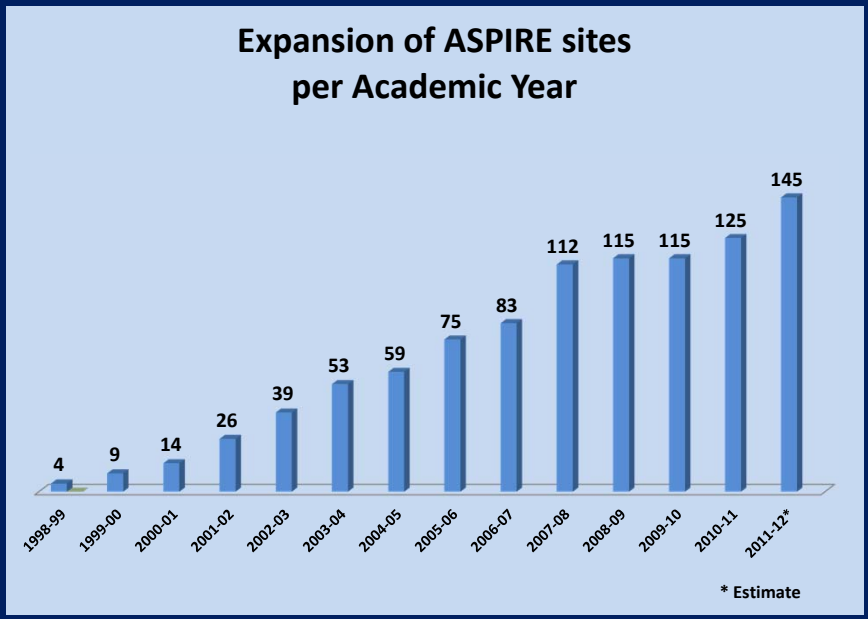
Mentoring at a site serving high school students

eASPIRE

Mentoring online serving high school students

Getting Ready to ASPIRE

Mentoring a site serving middle school students



ASPIRE Gets Results

A modest state investment leverages students with a purpose and a plan and on the road to success as a positive and productive contributor to Oregon's economy.

Chiloquin High School 2004	Impact of ASPIRE Started in 2004
Considered a failing school according to "No Child Left Behind"	
More than 50% Native American student population	
85% of students on free-and-reduced lunch program	
20% of graduating seniors went on to post-secondary education	65% of graduating seniors went on to post-secondary education in the 2010-11 academic year

ASPIRE Gets Results, cont.

School	College-going rate BEFORE ASPIRE	College-going rate AFTER ASPIRE	Years in the Program
Crow High School	38%	96%	5
Ashland High School	65%	94%	9
Estacada High School	69%	83%	5
Elkton High School	52%	66%	9
Beaverton High School	55%	67%	4
Stanfield High School	• 8 of 146 students went to one of Oregon's universities between 2003-2008	• 7 of 35 seniors are bound for an Oregon university in 2011 • 31 of 35 (88%) bound for postsecondary education & training in 2011	4

ASPIRE as a Promising Opportunity

What are Oregon's students thinking about their future?

"No one in my family has ever gone to college"

"I don't know where to go or how to go…"

"I can do just as well going straight to work"

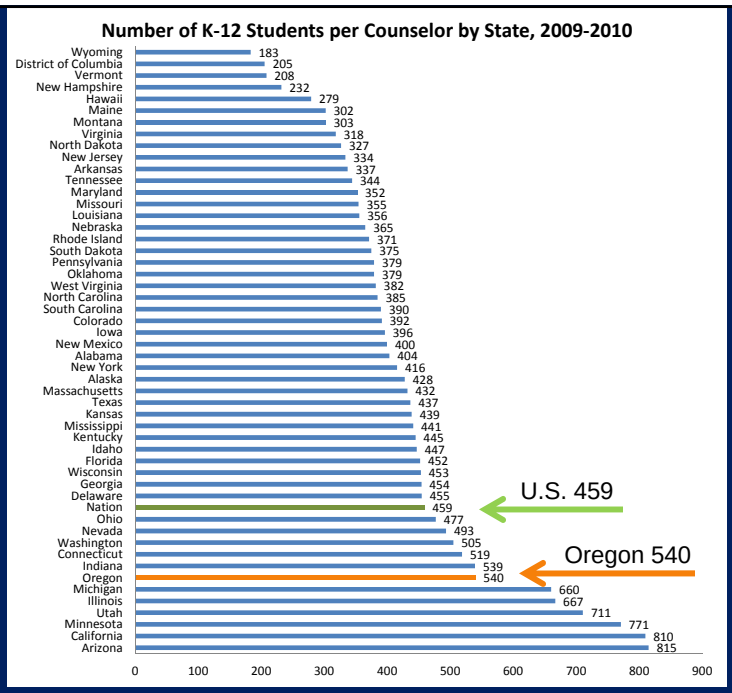
"I'm not smart enough"

"I can't afford it"

What is our current situation?

- Declining K-12 funding
- Declining staff (guidance counselors)
- Increased class sizes
- High school graduates lose courage in the summer and don't start their "plan of choice."
- In 2008, only 46.5% of Oregon high school graduates went directly on to college.

(National Center for Higher Education Management Systems)



(National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core Data, 2009-2010)

… and yet an extraordinary goal

40/40/20 by 2025

Pre-college Mentoring is Vital

- Research shows that starting mentoring early (no later than 8th grade), has been successful in increasing college-going culture by:
  - providing exposure to colleges through mentoring
  - providing outreach to students and parents
  - establishing high expectations for students and staff

  (ECONorthwest: October 2008)

- Mentoring cultivates aspirations and behaviors conducive to preparing for, applying to, and enrolling in college. A strong college culture is tangible, pervasive, and beneficial to students.

  (Corwin, Z.B. and Tierney, W.G. 2007)

- Research points to mentoring as being critical for successful launching to college.

  (Sipe, 2002)

Pre-college Mentoring is Vital, cont.

- Mentees showed an increase in connectedness to school and parents compared to a similar group of non-mentored youth.
  (Karcher, M. J. 2005)
- A college-going culture builds the expectation of post-secondary education for all students—not just the best students. It inspires the best in every student and it supports students in achieving their goals.
  (College Board, 2006)
- Mentoring is vital for a student's success and necessary even when funding is readily available for college.
  (Miller-Adams, M. 2009)

A Promising Opportunity

- Pre-college mentoring available to every middle and high school student in Oregon.
- Graduating high school with a "plan of choice" to begin executing now for long-term success.

Pre-college Mentoring Programs in Oregon

- Can result in every high school senior graduating with a "plan of choice" beyond high school.
- Can leverage a small investment to produce a significant contribution to 40/40/20.
- Can inspire the community to rise up and be part of the education solution for our state.
- Can place Oregon as a national leader in finding a solution to a common national problem.
- Can utilize a successful model available right here in Oregon – **OSAC'S ASPIRE Program.**

What will it take to put the vision in place?

Every Oregon Student has 1:1 Mentoring

Here is a summary of the expansion of the ASPIRE program to the identified 600 sites throughout Oregon's middle schools, high schools, and community-based organizations over a four-year period. At Year 4 it would be sustainable and even funding going forward.

				Sustainability
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Staffing	12	24	24	24
Funding	$2.5 million	$3 million	$4 million	$5 million
Sites	200	325	450	600

IMAGINE
Every student receives one-on-one mentoring in middle school and high school
and leaves high school with a purpose and a
"plan of choice" to begin executing now
for long-term success!