



**Reynolds School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Oregon Department of Education Notified Reynolds School District
It May be Out of Compliance Regarding its English Language Learner Students*

April 28, 2021, Fairview, OR – The Oregon Department of Education’s (ODE) Federal Systems Team recently notified the Reynolds School District that it may be out of compliance regarding K-12 English Language Learners (ELL) within the district. The Reynolds School District administrators are currently working with ODE to respond to the required review and receive further guidance to ensure compliance.

Dr. Danna Diaz, Superintendent of Schools, previously organized district-wide Listen & Learn sessions during her first full year as Superintendent in the 2018-2019 school year. Through these sessions with students, families, staff, and community members, she found that EL students and families were not feeling fully supported with meaningful engagement toward academic success. To follow up, during the 2019-2020 school year, Dr. Diaz contracted Public Consulting Group (PCG) to conduct a formal program review and make recommendations to improve outcomes in the English Language Development (ELD) program. During this time, the Oregon Department of Education conducted a risk assessment within the district to ensure that EL students can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs and services. The district was subsequently identified for on-site monitoring for the 2019-20 school year, which was placed on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Oregon Department of Education’s Federal Systems Team notified Reynolds School District on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, that based on the risk assessment and House Bill 3499 processes, it may have been out of compliance regarding K-12 ELL for the 2019-2020 school year. As a result of that assessment, identified areas have been selected for further review within the district as potential instances of non-compliance. Reynolds School District must submit a narrative response and supporting documentation to ODE no later than Friday, April 30, 2021. Depending on the outcome of the review of documents provided, as well as a follow-up conversation with district representatives, there may be an on-site visit occurring either in-person or virtually as early as May 17-21, 2021.

“The Reynolds School District Board of Directors and staff are committed to removing barriers and holding high academic expectations for all students,” Dr. Danna Diaz, Superintendent of Schools, Reynolds School District, states. “I am pleased that we have the opportunity to work with the Oregon Department of Education to receive guidance and support in ensuring that our EL students have the best possible outcomes.”

Currently, Reynolds School District has approximately 2,888 EL students, out of approximately 10,800 students. Under Superintendent Diaz’s direction, Reynolds School District recently hired a new Director of Multilingual Education, Jennifer Hernandez, who oversees the district’s ELD program and future compliance. Ms. Hernandez’s responsibilities include increasing student achievement in ELP (English Language Proficiency), math and ELA (English Language Arts), increasing student access to core classes, reducing the number of sheltered classes, supporting the current newcomer track with curriculum and resources, and creating a long term EL support structure.

(continued)

“I am proud of the dedication and passion that our teachers, support staff, and administrators bring to Reynolds School District every day,” Dr. Diaz continued. “I know that together we will take this opportunity to review and develop practices and policies to ensure we are giving all of our students the equitable access to education they deserve. It is the right thing to do for children and we will do it.”

About [Reynolds School District](#):

As a community, we prepare lifelong learners to achieve their full potential in a complex and interconnected world. Reynolds School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups in our society. Reynolds School District Board of Education ensures that all educational programs, activities, and employment will be free of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, parental or marital status, or age.

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