

Guidance for School Districts Re: Oregon Virtual Academy Charter School

Oregon Virtual Academy (ORVA) is a public charter school sponsored by the North Bend School District that will be opening on September 3, 2008. The State Board of Education granted ORVA a waiver of a state statute that restricted the number of students that ORVA may enroll from outside of the North Bend School District.

As part of granting the waiver the state board required students who attend ORVA who reside outside of the North Bend School District to receive permission from the student's resident school district prior to enrolling in ORVA. This requirement applies to all students regardless of whether the student attends a public school or private school or is homeschooled. The state board limited the student enrollment in ORVA to 600 students. It is expected that ORVA will enroll students from throughout the state.

It is a decision of the resident school district whether to grant a student permission to attend ORVA.

There are no uniform state standards for granting this permission. A school district should use reasons for granting students permission or denying permission that are rational and consistent -- for example, the district could decide based on what best serves the student's educational needs and interests.

ORVA has sample permission forms available for use by school districts and will be distributing these forms to parents. A school district may use these forms or a form developed by the school district.

An interdistrict transfer agreement form is not the appropriate form to use for granting this permission. A student attending ORVA does not require an interdistrict transfer.

The permission required by the State Board for enrollment in ORVA does not apply to enrollment in other public charter schools. A student may enroll in other public charter schools without the permission of the student's resident school district.

Note: Superintendent Susan Castillo has directed her staff to work with the State Board of Education and education stakeholders to prepare policy options for the 2009 legislature to review issues around funding, quality and equity with online education providers.

For information on ORVA, go to <http://www.k12.com/orva/>.

To see the ORVA district permission form, go to http://www.k12.com/filefolder/orva_district_release_form_revised_17july08.pdf

For more information on Charter Schools, go to <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=124>

Data Partnerships

The KIDS project is focused on providing quality, timely educational data through partnerships with school districts and education service districts. To provide financial assistance with this effort, an agreement was made between the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and six regional data providers to send daily updates of student data to ODE. This financial

assistance is focused on regions that provide data expertise and assist districts with infrastructure and tools that are too costly for each individual district to maintain. Over the next few months, the KIDS project team will be focused on reviewing the data extracted from the regional centers for quality, timeliness and consistency.

To complement this effort, the Oregon DATA project has begun the

professional development training to assist districts with utilizing data to inform instruction and ultimately improve student achievement. The DATA project is a federally funded grant focused on providing regional training and capitalizing on district and ESD expertise in the use of local and state data to inform instruction.

[Click here](#) to read more about KIDS and DATA and its relation to other ODE and district initiatives.