

August 10, 2026

TO: Staff, Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members

RE: Central Linn School District Justification for the Decision Not To Restore Lost Student Instructional Time as Required by Executive Order 26-06 and OAR 581-022-2323

On April 16, 2026, Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 26-06 to protect and restore student instructional time in Oregon schools, taking action to prioritize academic outcomes and ensure every student has access to consistent, high-quality learning. According to Section 4.c. of the order, "If a district [or public charter school], at the direction of their board, chooses not to restore lost student instructional time, the district [or public charter school] must publicly explain their justification for that choice." OAR 581-022-2323 was adopted by the State Board of Education to codify and implement the executive order.

Student instructional time is defined in OAR 581-022-2323 as "the total hours students are in school, bell-to- bell, including recess, lunch, passing time, and instruction."

Amount of Student Instructional Time Reduced in 2025-26 and/or 2026-27 SY

- Link to the data regarding Central Linn's [Student Instructional Time Calculations](#).
- The instructional time calculations were determined based on calendars and bell schedules from the following school years: 24-25, 25-26, and 26-27. If you have questions regarding these calculations, please contact **Rob Hess**.

Amount of Student Instructional Time Planned for the 2027-28 SY

We plan to provide 1060 Hours of Instructional Time for grades K-6, and 1118 Hours of Instructional Time for grades 7-12.

Justification

On August 10, 2026, the Central Linn School Board approved the decision not to restore lost student instructional time for the following reason(s):

- The state only requires 900 Hours of instructional time for grades K-6, and we are providing 1060 hours (160 above the minimum requirement).
- The state only requires 990 hours of instructional time for grades 7-12, and we are providing 1118 hours (128 hours above the minimum required).

- We currently provide more instructional hours than most districts in the state of Oregon.
- Executive Order 26-06 arbitrarily chose the 24-25 school year as a baseline for their calculations of Instructional Time. For over 20 years, Central Linn operated on a 4 Day school week schedule—except during the 24-25 school year. As a result of the state’s decision, our instructional time restoration number is higher than most other districts.
- A review of assessment data before and after the move to a 5 day school week in 24-25 does not show any statistical difference in achievement—as a matter of fact, academic results actually *decreased* with the additional instructional time.
- The move to a 5 day school week in 24-25 resulted in the loss of at least 50 students to a neighboring district offering a 4 day week—costing the district over a million dollars in lost revenue, which resulted in larger class sizes and less support staff for our students. The decision was also a factor in students and families electing to attend virtual charter schools and programs across the state. Currently 10% of the students who live in the Central Linn boundary are attending virtual charter schools.
- To meet the state’s 24-25 restoration goal for Central Linn, we would need to add approximately 10 days of instruction to our current calendar—which is not cost effective and makes little sense when we are already in the top 25% of hours offered across the state.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

Robert Hess

Chair of the School Board