



SUCCESS STORY

Oregon teachers spread the word about YouScience successes

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) launched a pilot program introducing YouScience Discovery to five regions across the state in 2021. The southern region hit the ground running and passionately shared its success with as many districts and schools as possible, driving program participation from 25 to 180 schools.

Laying the groundwork

The ODE was tasked with creating a career-connected education framework for the state. A part of the assignment included developing ways to support students in the four domains of career and technical education (CTE): awareness, exploration, preparation, and training, with an emphasis on creating awareness. On the recommendation of a previous CTE director, department administrators began looking at YouScience solutions for help.

After a number of meetings, information gathering, and hands-on experience with YouScience Discovery, the department was ready to share its recommendations with the broader CTE network of some 120 leaders and thousands of educators at the high school, community college, and post-secondary education levels.

“We had people take the assessments themselves, or they’d share it with school kids in their own families,” said Jim Taylor, ODE Secondary/Post-secondary Transitions Team. “Once we saw how positive the results were, we decided to launch a pilot program for the whole state.”

Five of Oregon’s 19 education service districts joined the program, with ODE funding Discovery in 27 schools for 18 months. ODE made funds available to schools for professional development materials, school lessons, system build-outs, and coordinating integration of Discovery into CTE programs. It also promoted weekly open office hours where administrators could share successes and learn how Discovery can help educators overcome challenges.

Administrators for the Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD) liked what they heard and began using Discovery at its schools.

“Knowing that it was an aptitude assessment and not just an interest test really piqued my interest,” said Karla Clark, CC4A/STEAM project manager, SOESD. “We were already rolling out tools that helped students explore possible careers. YouScience just seemed to fit with what we’re doing and gave us something that we could expand upon.”

Institutions

- Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
- Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD)

Location

- Oregon

Challenges

Increasing awareness of the value of YouScience Discovery in schools across the state. And expanding enrollment in ODE’s YouScience Discovery pilot program.

Solution

- YouScience Discovery

Results

620% increase in schools participating in the statewide pilot program (25 to 180)



Interest in Discovery is growing at all educational levels

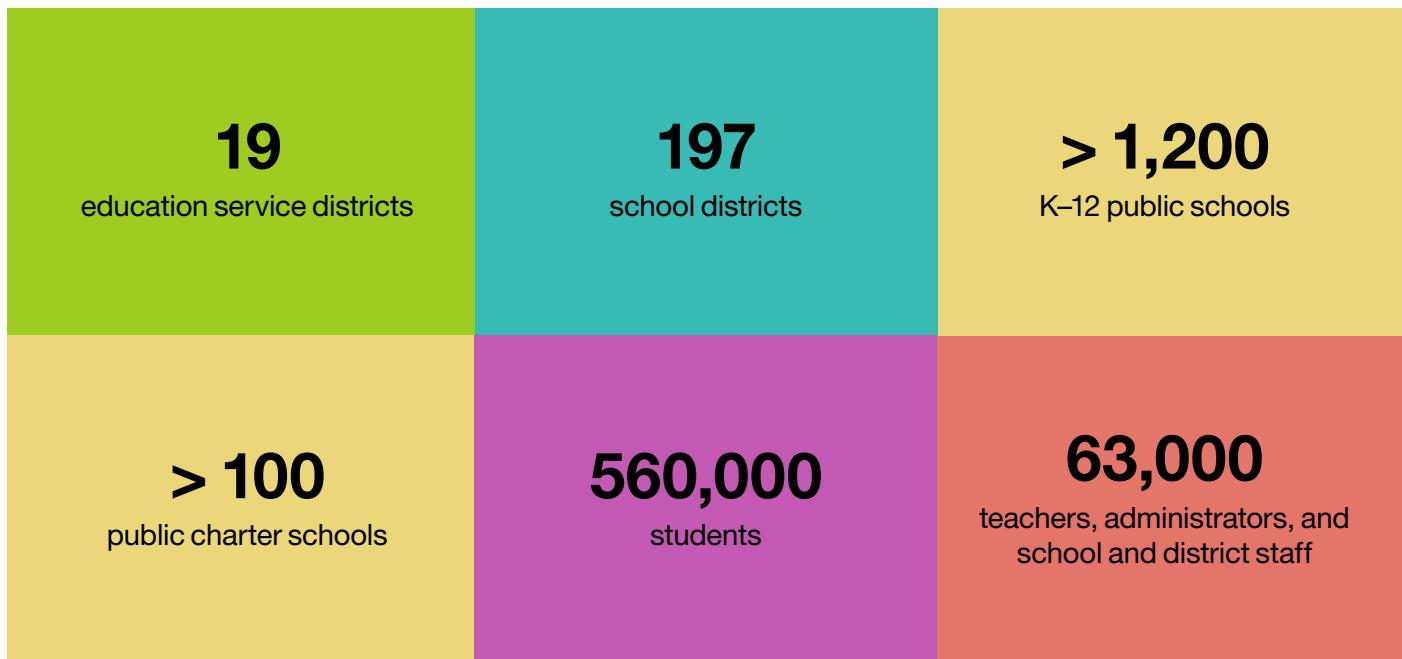
Passion

Some educators across the state were so passionate about Discovery’s value that they drove adoption measures — using webinars and videos — voluntarily

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ODE at a glance



SOESD administrators experienced game-changing results right out of the gate and liked Discovery so much that they began voluntarily championing it to schools in their service district and throughout Oregon.

Sharing the benefits of Discovery

SOESD administrators held weekly webinars where school officials and educators could learn more about Discovery, how to participate in the pilot program, and get an idea of what worked and what to expect. They even created videos to promote Discovery to peers at other schools.

“We brought people together to figure out how to best engage communities and how we can really show the impact of YouScience,” Taylor said. “We want to have fewer barriers in the way of students finding success.”

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In addition, the ODE and SOESD held events and invited pilot schools to discuss what they’ve learned about Discovery, talk about their successes, answer questions, and share stories about how assessments impacted their schools and what students were excited about. They also held a student-sharing event where students could share their experiences with Discovery and how it offers insights into their personal talents and guidance for possible careers.

YouScience Discovery adoption grows

SOESD's passion for Discovery helped drive the solution's adoption across the state. Once other schools began seeing how Discovery helps improve career guidance and exploration programs for students, it was an easy sell. It even grabbed the attention of educators at the collegiate level.

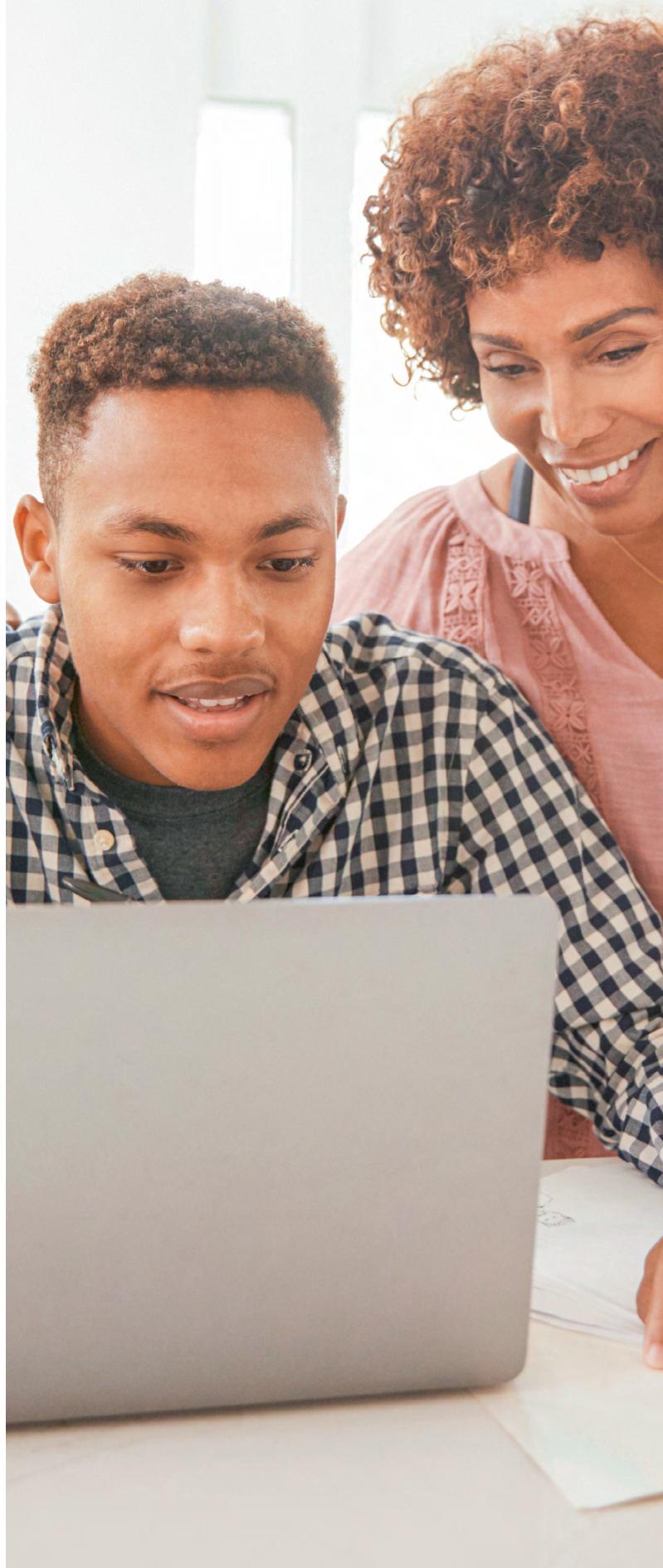
"There's been interest at the community-college level about using YouScience to help students continue on their career journey," said Beth Wigham, EdD, ODE CCR/school counseling programs education specialist. "It's really powerful when higher education says, 'Hey, we're interested in this too.'"

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The success of the program, SOESD's passion for sharing their own success, and impacts on student success drove participation in ODE's pilot program grew from 25 to 180 schools, which includes many middle schools.

With the growth and success, ODE has renewed access to Discovery for all schools for the 2022–23 academic year. ODE plans to continue adding schools and providing resources to promote awareness about Discovery and its benefits as well.





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