



October 9, 2006

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Oregon Progress Board
155 Cottage Street NE, U20
Salem, OR 97301

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Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor

Dear Rita:


The Oregon Commission on Children and Families supports the submission and approval of a new Positive Youth Development Benchmark. The establishment of this benchmark will allow the state to measure developmental outcomes for youth.

Data from the 2006 Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) Survey was very positive from respondents who answered at least five of the six positive youth development questions that focus on individual well being and social connectedness. We were excited to see that students who had strong responses to positive youth development had lower responses in high risk areas such as school suspension, and drug, tobacco, and alcohol use..

The results from the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey supports ongoing research that shows the linkage between positive associations, protective factors and adolescent well-being.

The establishment of an Oregon Positive Youth Development Benchmark also supports the mission of the OCCF and the Oregon Positive Youth Development Collaboration Project to promote policies and implement strategies that support positive youth development, e.g., mentoring, after school programming, youth engagement, physical and mental health services, education and skill development, etc.).

OCCF would like to thank you and other partners for the work to establish this meaningful benchmark.

Sincerely,

Mickey Lansing
Executive Director

Copy: Connie Carley, Oregon Positive Youth Development Coordinator