



EDUCATION, WORKFORCE & OPPORTUNITY

Challenges and opportunities facing education —
and a local strategy for Oregon City



The landscape is changing — all at once

Four forces are converging on education.

FEWER TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Oregon's high school graduate pipeline peaks now, then contracts significantly.

A CHANGING WORKFORCE

AI, automation and demographic shifts are changing jobs and skill requirements.

PRESSURE ON VALUE

Students and families expect clearer ROI, affordability and direct career pathways.

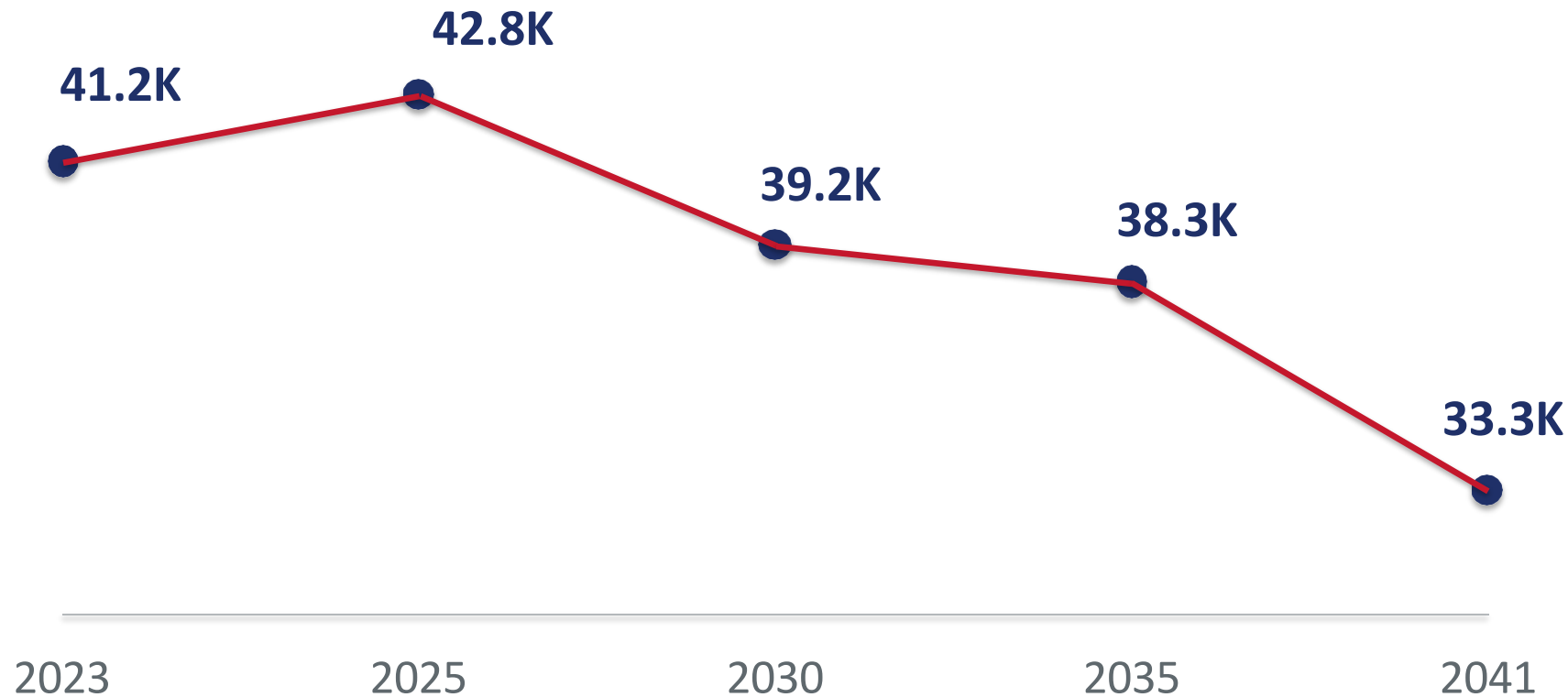
A REGIONAL IMPERATIVE

Employers need talent while schools and colleges need stronger shared pathways.

The opportunity: Build a seamless K–12 → college → career ecosystem in Oregon City

The demographic shift is here

WICHE projects a national peak in high school graduates in 2025, followed by steady decline



OREGON

-19%

projected change
2023 → 2041

Celebrating 60 Years



“Enrollment cliff” is only half the story

The response cannot be simply competing harder for a smaller pool of 18-year-olds

1. SERVE MORE OF THE STUDENTS WE ALREADY HAVE

- Stronger advising and transitions
- Affordability and transparent financial aid
- Academic and wraparound support

2. RE-ENGAGE ADULT LEARNERS

- Shorter credentials and flexible schedules
- Credit for prior learning
- Employer-supported upskilling
- Clear on-ramps and off-ramps

3. CONNECT LEARNING TO WORK

- Dual credit and CTE pathways
- Work-based learning
- Apprenticeship
- Stackable credentials tied to regional jobs

What employers will need by 2030

Technical fluency is rising fast — but durable human skills remain essential

FAST-GROWING

Technological literacy
Networks + cybersecurity
AI + big data

CORE

- Leadership + collaboration
- Resilience + agility
- Creative thinking
- Analytical thinking

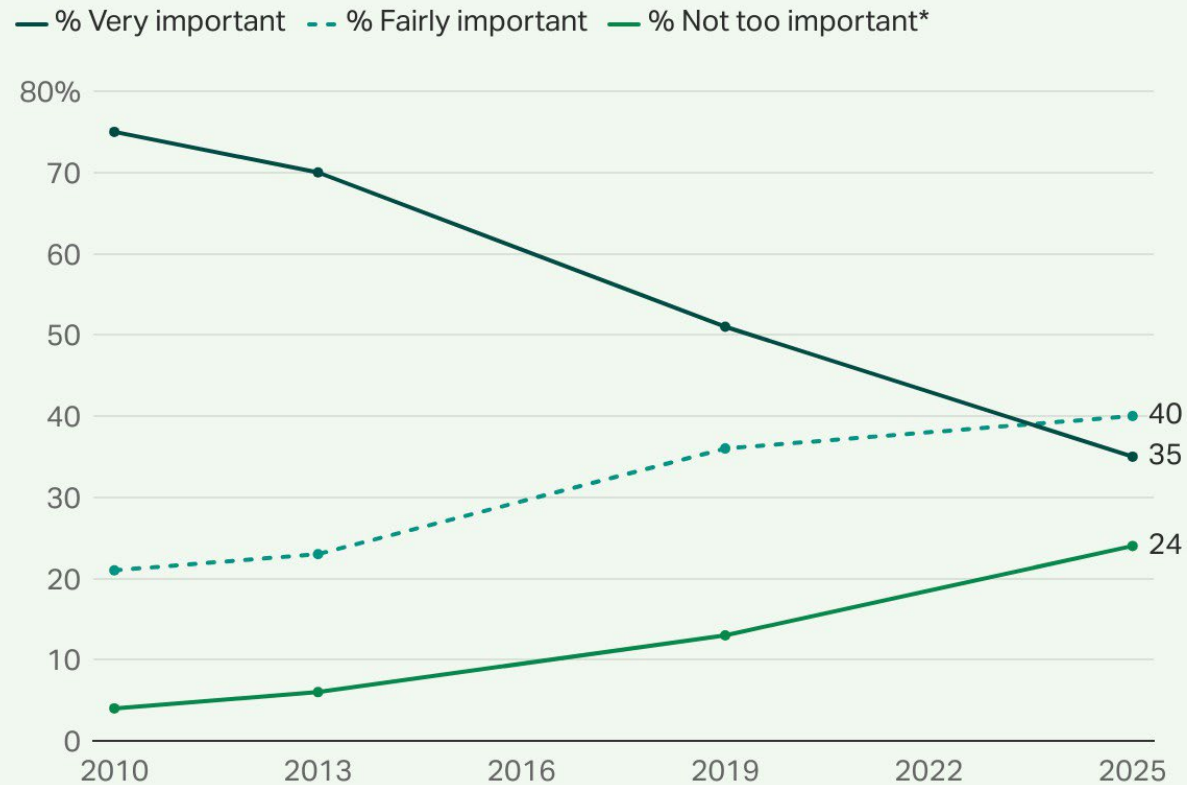


Nearly 40% of job skills are expected to change by 2030

Questions about value of higher education

Value Americans Place on College Education

How important is a college education today — very important, fairly important or not too important?



* 2010 result includes 1% who volunteered "not at all important"

GALLUP®

College going rates
are declining

OREGON

49%

NATIONAL

62%

“Not everyone needs to go to college, but we all benefit from those that do.”

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Federal and state funding impacts



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Oregon public universities are headed toward steeper cuts and higher tuition, leaders warn



By **Bryce Dole** (OPB)

Aug. 19, 2026 2:35 p.m. **Updated:** Aug. 20, 2026 9:08 a.m.

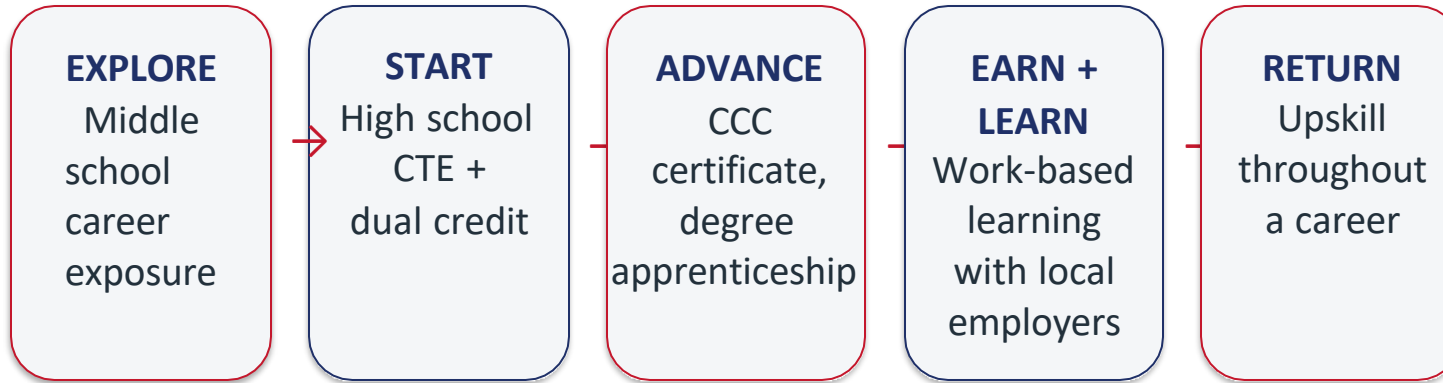
"I think our ability to meet the needs of students and parents and the state is diminishing on a yearly basis, and more people need to speak up."

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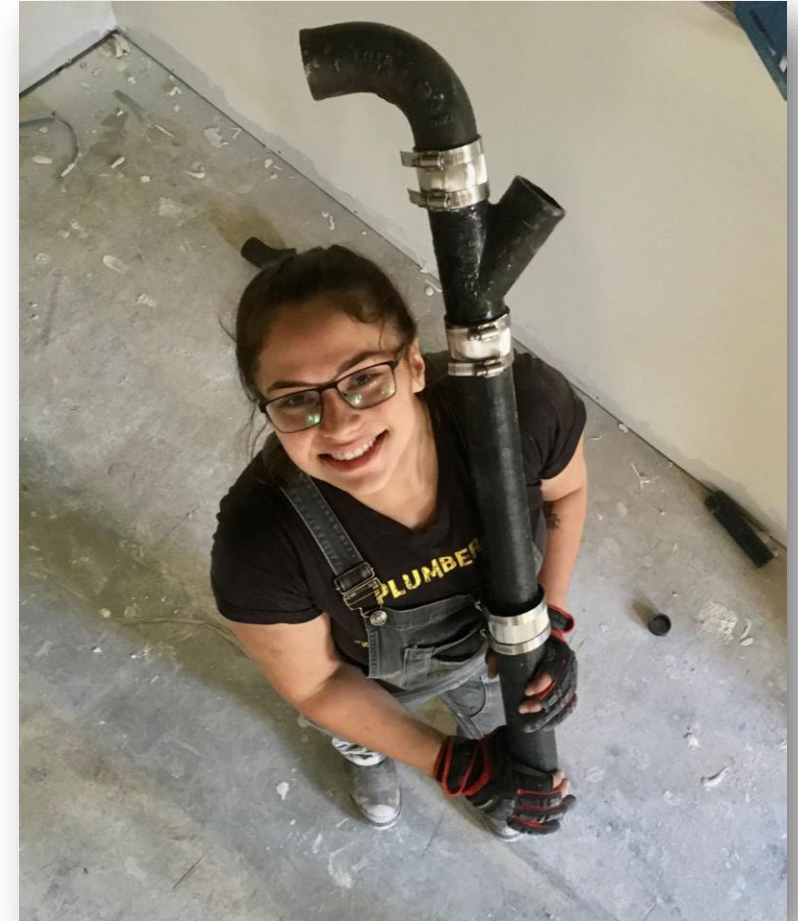
A local answer: Build pathways earlier

CCC and Oregon City School District are working to make CTE a connected pathway — not a handoff



CCC provides multiple High School Connections pathways and free CTE summer camps for Clackamas County students.

Opportunity: Align OCSD career exploration, dual credit, CTE pathways, college credentials, and employer experiences into one visible continuum.



CCC bond: \$130 million invested in the next generation

Modernize learning • Preserve assets • Strengthen community connections



Preserve aging assets

Maintenance and repairs across buildings and core infrastructure.

Grow workforce capacity

Natural resources, STEM, Wilsonville workforce, and apprenticeship expansion.

Modern learning spaces

Teaching, learning, safety, technology, and energy-efficiency improvements.

Connect with community

Athletics, pathways, plazas, and spaces that invite community use.

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Where business can plug in

Education-to-workforce systems are built with employers, not for employers.

1

Signal demand

Share emerging occupations, skills and hiring needs.

2

Create experiences

Offer job shadows, internships, site visits and mentors.

3

Co-design training

Serve on advisory groups; review curriculum and equipment needs.

4

Invest in people

Tuition support, incumbent-worker training and apprenticeships.

5

Tell the story

Help students + families see local careers with family-sustaining wages.



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A shared opportunity for Oregon City

Demographic change does not have to mean economic decline

STUDENTS

See a clear path to opportunity

EMPLOYERS

Gain a stronger, more adaptable talent pipeline

OCSD + CCC

Use resources and expertise more effectively

OREGON CITY

Strengthens economic resilience and quality of life

LET'S BUILD THE PIPELINE TOGETHER.

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Bond spotlight: Holden Natural Resources Center

Connecting environmental stewardship and workforce readiness



Programs supported:

- Water + Environmental Technology
- Horticulture
- Arboriculture
- Wildland Fire
- OSU Extension

Funding includes \$8M state match, \$5M donation, and \$15.9M from OSU Extension.

\$56M

Estimated
project cost

Nov. 17

Groundbreaking
ceremony

Winter 2027

Construction
begins

Spring 2028

Planned grand
opening

Bond spotlight: Holden Natural Resources Center



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Bond spotlight: Holden Natural Resources Center



Other bond projects to watch

Projects designed for learning, workforce capacity, stewardship and community access



Douglas Loop

A continuous, accessible walking route around the Oregon City campus; completed in 2026.

Safety + security

Modern access controls and other campus safety improvements.

Workforce learning spaces

Investments aimed at keeping labs, technology and hands-on training aligned with industry.

Energy + infrastructure

HVAC, roofs, siding, doors, windows and critical maintenance.

CCC + OCSD: practical CTE collaboration opportunities

Shared pathway maps

Align high school courses, dual credit and CCC certificates so students know exactly what comes next.

More college credit in CTE

Expand articulated credit / High School Plus in programs with strong student and employer demand.

Shared equipment + facilities

Coordinate specialized labs, instructors and equipment where duplication is costly.

Work-based learning

Create a common employer network for job shadows, internships, mentorships and paid experiences.

Teacher + faculty collaboration

Joint curriculum teams, summer externships and professional learning tied to changing industry practice.

Career awareness earlier

Bring employers and CCC into middle/high school exploration so families see routes to good careers.

Business Alliance role: identify priority occupations • host students • advise curriculum • provide equipment and expertise

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