Oregon's District Operations Reviews - First Round

Lessons learned in implementation

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The Process

1. The self-assessment worksheet
2. The ODA visit

1. SWCD Board prioritization of the recommendations
2. Follow-up technical assistance
A three-pronged assignment

- What is really going on out there?
- Who are the real experts?
- What training and other support is most needed?
What we learned...

- Some will welcome you....
- Some will be hard to catch...
- And who is who may surprise you!
What we learned

Good reviews take more time than we expected.
What we learned...

Good self-assessment is the most important piece
What we learned

- We must provide tools if we can’t provide bodies

- Hits instead of phone calls
What we learned:

- Mandatory participation is easier but increases resistance from districts.

- Voluntary participation is hard to sell and slow to organize but builds great relationships and trust.
What we learned...

Face to face contact is even more important than we thought.
What we learned...

Districts who have completed the process are our best marketing tool.
What we learned

Partners may be scarce by implementation time.
Decisions to make before you start

- Continual improvement or compliance?

- Lots of shallow reviews or fewer reviews in depth?
Decisions to make before you start

- Is this a manageable workload for your office?

- Is this a manageable workload for district offices?
Decisions to make before you start...

- Are there questions that you don’t want to hear the answers to?
And when all that is figured out...

It will be time to start all over again for another round...