Membership Eligibility

To be considered for SMILE membership, a student must meet ALL the requirements in Part A and AT LEAST ONE of the criteria in Part B.

Part A

• Student must be working at grade level or receiving grades of C or better in all classes, as determined by school records.

• Student must be able to help establish and maintain a safe club environment.

• Student must be able to participate in and contribute to cooperative learning, college-readiness and academic enrichment activities.

• Student must show an interest in math and science, as evidenced by class participation or extracurricular involvement.

• Student must exhibit good behavior and good school citizenship, as determined by school records and recommendations from school staff.

• Student must complete The SMILE Program application and obtain parent/guardian permission to participate.

Part B

• Be a member of a group that exhibits high school graduation rates lower than the state average. Such groups include American Indian/Alaskan Native, African American, and Latino/Hispanic.

• Be from a low-income household (as determined by student’s eligibility for free or reduced-priced lunch).

• Have parents who have not earned a bachelor’s degree from a four-year university.

• Have linguistic or cultural backgrounds different from those that predominate in Oregon’s elementary and secondary school system.

• Title I-C: Education of Migratory Children

• Title III: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Children

• Title VII-A: Indian Education

Membership Selection Process

The selection committee shall consist of the local SMILE teachers, who may invite others, such as the principal of the host school, or his/her designate, to participate.

• Verify the eligibility of each applicant using Parts A and B criteria (as specified on page 1). Give preference for membership in the following order:

1. Student was a member of SMILE in the previous school year.
2. Student meets two or more of the criteria listed in Part B of Membership Eligibility. Preference will be given to those students meeting the most criteria in Part B.
3. Student has been a member of SMILE in the past (although not the previous school year).

• It is not necessary to hold your applications until you have received them all. Turn in batches as you accumulate a significant number.

• There is no ‘waiting list.’ Ideally, club membership is 20 students per club advisor (this is the largest number that we believe a single teacher can effectively mentor). If you feel a larger membership is warranted, be sure that ALL students have completed and returned an application.

• All applications are due in the SMILE office no later than the first Friday in November.

• SMILE staff will return a roster to club advisors showing all students whose applications have been received at the SMILE office and recorded in the master database. This list will be the official club roster.

• Changes and additions: Teachers can change or add students to the club roster until the winter teacher workshop. Teachers will receive a ‘most recent’ roster shortly before the winter workshop for their verification. Note any discrepancies on this roster (e.g., misspellings, any error in data entry) and bring it with you to the workshop. The roster will be corrected and a FINAL roster distributed at the end of the workshop. At that time, the club membership will be set.

Membership Selection Process

Students may drop, or be dropped, at any time during the SMILE year, however no membership additions will be accepted after the winter teacher workshop.

Removal from Membership

• At several intervals during the school year, SMILE teachers will check grades, behavior, and attendance for all students to determine whether they still meet membership standards.

• Reasons for removal could include: failure to maintain grade average, repeated absence from meetings, failure to complete projects, not attending field trips, and/or unacceptable behavior. SMILE teachers should report all changes in membership to the SMILE office immediately (who, when, why).

• Prior to removal from membership the following steps must be taken:

1. Discuss situation with student and parent/guardian
2. Provide documentation of existing problem
3. Provide a probationary period allowing student time to overcome the problem

Important Application Process Information

• Each student must submit an application form each year.

• Parent or guardian must fill in where indicated, giving the student permission to participate in SMILE and selecting whether or not to release photos. No student can participate without signed permission.

• Student must return the completed application form to the SMILE teacher within two weeks of the first meeting.

• SMILE teachers should check that both the student and the parent information in the application have been completed and the application has been signed.