

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/3, 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Oregon Student Assistance Commission to establish Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE). Establishes ASPIRE Program Fund within the General Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to commission for program. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Complexity of federal financial aid forms
- Uniqueness of ASPIRE program in the U.S.
- Fraudulent organizations that take fees to identifying scholarships and college funding
- Rescission of subsequent referral to Joint Ways and Means Committee by House committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Started in 1998, ASPIRE is an Oregon Student Assistance (OSAC) program funded by foundations and grants that is designed to boost the number of high school students who attend post-secondary education through an increase in the number of Oregon students seeking and receiving scholarships and financial aid. ASPIRE has partnered with AmeriCorps, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, Oregon GEAR Up, the Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Mentors, and the National College Access Network.

ASPIRE's objectives are helping high schools recruit volunteer mentors, training those volunteers to provide mentoring to help secondary students access education and training beyond high school, and educating students and families about financial aid options. The Governor's budget proposes \$1.4 million for ASPIRE. According to OSAC, that amount would enable expansion from the current level of 84 schools and 39,450 students served in 2005-07 to an estimated 150 schools and 71,250 students served in 2007-09. A corresponding expansion in the number of volunteers from 1,144 in 2005-07 to 1,930 in 2007-09 is also expected.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.