

Senate Bill 369

Sponsored by Senator SCHRADER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires school districts to ensure that all students meet or exceed academic content standards prior to graduating from high school. Requires school districts to have specified percentages of students earning high school diploma. Requires school districts to have specified percentage of student attendance.

Directs Department of Education to award school improvement grants to school districts that meet performance measures. For school districts that do not meet performance measures, directs portion of grant funds to be used for school district improvement activities.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to school district improvement; creating new provisions; amending ORS 327.290 and 327.294;
3 repealing ORS 327.297; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 327.290 is amended to read:

6 327.290. The Legislative Assembly finds that:

7 (1) The state has an interest in ensuring that public resources for primary and secondary
8 schools are used to achieve the outcomes established under the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st
9 Century in ORS chapter 329 **and to assist school districts in providing instruction necessary**
10 **for students to reach academic standards established by the Legislative Assembly and the**
11 **Department of Education.**

12 (2) To achieve that purpose, the School Improvement Fund is established so the state may sup-
13 port activities directly related to increases in student achievement while still allowing school dis-
14 tricts flexibility in determining the specific activities necessary to support students.

15 (3) It is the intent of the state in establishing the School Improvement Fund to link these ac-
16 tivities to the recommendations of the Quality Education Commission established under Executive
17 Order 99-16 and the recommendations of the Quality Education Commission established under ORS
18 327.500.

19 **SECTION 2.** ORS 327.294 is amended to read:

20 327.294. (1) There is established the School Improvement Fund, separate and distinct from the
21 General Fund. Interest earned by the School Improvement Fund shall be credited to the fund. Any
22 moneys in the fund that are not distributed by the Department of Education in any fiscal year shall
23 be retained in the fund and may be distributed in the next fiscal year.

24 (2) The moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Department of Education for
25 purposes of the **school improvement** grant program created by [*ORS 327.297*] **section 4 of this**
26 **2007 Act.**

27 **SECTION 3.** (1)(a) **School districts, in collaboration with the Department of Education,**
28 **shall ensure that students perform at a level sufficient to demonstrate a rate of academic**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 growth that will lead to achieving:

2 (A) State reading and mathematics benchmarks for grades 5, 8 and 10 so that students
3 will meet or exceed academic content standards in reading and mathematics, as defined in
4 ORS 329.007, prior to graduating from high school; and

5 (B) Performance targets identified by the school district in the district's school im-
6 provement grant application.

7 (b) The department shall review the rate of academic growth identified by a school dis-
8 trict in the district's school improvement grant application that must be achieved by stu-
9 dents for a school district to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection.

10 (2)(a) On or after July 1, 2009, each school district, in collaboration with the department,
11 shall ensure that at least 70 percent of all students who enter high school earn a high school
12 diploma within four years of entering high school.

13 (b) Each school year after the 2009-2010 school year, the percentage of students who must
14 earn a high school diploma for a school district to meet the requirements of paragraph (a)
15 of this subsection shall increase by 0.5 percent until 95 percent of students must receive a
16 high school diploma for a school district to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this
17 subsection.

18 (3) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, each school district, in collaboration with
19 the department, shall have an average school attendance rate for each school year that is
20 equal to or greater than 93 percent of all students who are enrolled in the school district.

21 (4) The department shall require each school district to provide evidence of meeting the
22 requirements of this section. Each school district shall report to the department on whether
23 the district met the requirements of this section. The report must describe how each com-
24 ponent population in the individual schools of a school district, and the school district as a
25 whole, is meeting the requirements of this section.

26 (5) As part of the local district improvement plan adopted by each school district under
27 ORS 329.095, school districts shall utilize the performance measures required by this section
28 to identify steps for district improvement, financial allocations and professional development
29 of the employees of the district.

30 **SECTION 4.** (1) In addition to those moneys distributed through the State School Fund,
31 the Department of Education shall award school improvement grants to school districts to
32 assist the districts in providing instruction necessary for students to reach the academic
33 standards established by law.

34 (2)(a) The base amount of each school improvement grant = the school district's ADM
35 × (the total amount available for the grants in a fiscal year ÷ the total statewide ADM for
36 that fiscal year).

37 (b) As used in this subsection, "ADM" means the average daily membership as defined
38 in ORS 327.006.

39 (3) During the 2007-2008 school year, each school district shall receive the full base
40 amount as a school improvement grant.

41 (4) Each school year after the 2007-2008 school year, a school district shall receive the
42 full base amount as a school improvement grant if during the previous school year the school
43 district met the requirements of section 3 (2) and (3) of this 2007 Act and:

44 (a) During the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years, 50 percent of all students in the
45 school district met the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

1 (b) During the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, 60 percent of all students in the
2 school district met the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

3 (c) During the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, 70 percent of all students in the
4 school district met the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

5 (d) During the 2013-2014 school year, 80 percent of all students in the school district met
6 the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

7 (e) During the 2014-2015 school year, 90 percent of all students in the school district met
8 the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

9 (f) During the 2015-2016 school year, 95 percent of all students in the school district met
10 the requirements established by section 3 (1) of this 2007 Act.

11 (5) If a school district does not qualify for the full base amount of the school improve-
12 ment grant under subsection (4) of this section, for the next school year:

13 (a) The department shall withhold up to 50 percent of the base amount of the district's
14 school improvement grant; and

15 (b) The school district shall include in the local district improvement plan specific steps
16 the district will take to enable the district to meet the requirements of subsection (4) of this
17 section.

18 (6) The department shall use the amount withheld from a school district's school im-
19 provement grant to pay for the development of the local district improvement plan required
20 by subsection (5)(b) of this section. Grant funds may be used for activities identified in the
21 local district improvement plan, including but not limited to:

22 (a) The development of an in-depth data analysis of the performance of the school district
23 and the success of existing instructional programs of the school district;

24 (b) A review of evidence of the success of special programs and strategies to serve low-
25 performing students;

26 (c) Activities that target resources to low-performing and minority students; and

27 (d) Strategies to engage the community in the school district.

28 (7) If a school district does not qualify for the full base amount of the school improve-
29 ment grant under subsection (4) of this section for two consecutive school years, the de-
30 partment shall use a portion of the amount withheld from the school district's school
31 improvement grant for a performance audit of the local district improvement plan and the
32 instructional programs of the school district. The department shall work with the school
33 district to implement recommendations from the performance audit. The department may
34 contract with a public or private entity for the performance audit.

35 (8)(a) If a school district does not qualify for the full base amount of the school im-
36 provement grant under subsection (4) of this section for three consecutive school years, the
37 department shall award the amount withheld from the school district's school improvement
38 grant to an education service district in which the school district is a component school
39 district. The education service district shall use the grant to fund activities described in this
40 subsection.

41 (b) The education service district shall provide review and oversight of the instructional
42 programs of the school district. The education service district may identify improvements
43 for the instructional programs and may require the school district to implement those im-
44 provements. The education service district may also require the school district to provide
45 professional development to the employees of the school district.

1 **(9) Each school district shall use a portion of the funds received as a school improvement**
2 **grant to implement a comprehensive community engagement process. Through this process,**
3 **a school district shall develop and implement:**

4 **(a) Communication strategies for all language groups that reside in the school district;**

5 **(b) Procedures for providing community members with accurate and comprehensive in-**
6 **formation about the school district and the programs, finances, performance and budget of**
7 **the school district; and**

8 **(c) Procedures for community involvement in the decision-making process of the school**
9 **district.**

10 **(10) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration**
11 **of the school improvement grant program.**

12 **SECTION 5.** **ORS 327.297 is repealed.**

13 **SECTION 6.** **This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
14 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect**
15 **July 1, 2007.**

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