Senate Bill 850

Sponsored by Senator STARR; Senators ATKINSON, AVAKIAN, G GEORGE, L GEORGE, METSGER, WHITSETT, Representative FLORES (at the request of Oregon Foster Parents Association, Oregon Home Education Network, Oregon Christian Home Education Association Network)

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.**

Allows exemption from requirement that children must attend public schools for children who are taught by foster parents.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to children who are not taught in public schools; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329.465, 334.175, 339.030, 339.035, 339.250, 339.460, 339.505 and 807.066; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 329.465 is amended to read:

329.465. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt academic content standards and requirements for the Certificate of Initial Mastery and for Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsements.

- (2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe the academic content standards, pursuant to ORS 329.025 and 329.035, that a student must meet in order to obtain the Certificate of Initial Mastery or a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement. The Certificate of Initial Mastery and the Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsements shall be based on a series of performance-based assessments and content assessments benchmarked to mastery levels. The assessment methods shall include work samples and tests. The state board shall establish a certificate for students who, with additional services and accommodations, do not meet the standards for the Certificate of Initial Mastery. Students shall be allowed to collect credentials over a period of years, culminating in a project or exhibition that demonstrates attainment of the required knowledge and skills that have been measured by a variety of valid assessment methods.
- (3) Requirements for the Certificate of Initial Mastery or a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement shall:
- (a) Ensure that students have the necessary knowledge and demonstrate the skills to read, write, problem solve, reason and communicate;
- (b) Ensure that students have the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to learn, think, retrieve information and use technology;
- (c) Ensure that students have the opportunity to demonstrate that they can work effectively as individuals and as an individual in group settings; and
 - (d) Ensure that student assessment is based on academic content standards.
- (4)(a) The state board shall establish the minimum number of work samples that a student must complete in each subject to receive the Certificate of Initial Mastery or to receive a Certificate of

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.

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- 1 Initial Mastery subject area endorsement.
 - (b) If a school district receives the approval of the Department of Education, the school district may require a student, as part of the requirements for the Certificate of Initial Mastery or a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement, to complete a greater number of work samples for a particular subject than the minimum number established by the state board.
 - (5) The state board shall adopt requirements for the Certificate of Initial Mastery in mathematics, science and English. Each school district shall implement the Certificate of Initial Mastery in mathematics, science and English.
 - (6) In addition, the state board shall adopt requirements for Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsements in history, geography, economics, civics, physical education, health, the arts and second languages. A school district may offer to the students of the school district a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement in any of the following:
 - (a) History, geography, economics and civics.
- (b) Physical education.
- 15 (c) Health.

- (d) The arts.
 - (e) Second languages.
- (7) A student may receive a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement only if the student has received the Certificate of Initial Mastery.
- (8) The state board or a school district may not make the creation of a student portfolio a requirement for the Certificate of Initial Mastery or a Certificate of Initial Mastery subject area endorsement.
- (9) The provisions of this section may be applied individually as appropriate to students enrolled in special education programs under ORS chapter 343.
- (10) The Department of Education shall develop procedures to accommodate out-of-state students, students taught by a parent, legal guardian, **foster parent** or private teacher as described in ORS 339.030, private school students transferring into public schools and migrant children from other states and countries.
- (11) Nothing in this section is intended to apply the Certificates of Mastery programs or standards to private school students or students taught by a parent, legal guardian, **foster parent** or private teacher as described in ORS 339.030.

SECTION 2. ORS 334.175 is amended to read:

- 334.175. (1) An education service district shall provide regionalized core services to component school districts. The goals of these services are to:
 - (a) Assist component school districts in meeting the requirements of state and federal law;
 - (b) Improve student learning;
 - (c) Enhance the quality of instruction provided to students;
 - (d) Provide professional development to component school district employees;
- (e) Enable component school districts and the students who attend schools in those districts to have equitable access to resources; and
 - (f) Maximize operational and fiscal efficiencies for component school districts.
 - (2) The services provided by an education service district shall be provided according to a local service plan developed by the education service district and component school districts. The education service district and component school districts shall develop the local service plan to meet the goals specified in subsection (1) of this section. The local service plan must include services in at

least the following areas:

- (a) Programs for children with special needs, including but not limited to special education services, services for at-risk students and professional development for employees who provide those services.
- (b) Technology support for component school districts and the individual technology plans of those districts, including but not limited to technology infrastructure services, data services, instructional technology services, distance learning and professional development for employees who provide those services.
- (c) School improvement services for component school districts, including but not limited to services designed to support component school districts in meeting the requirements of state and federal law, services designed to allow the education service district to participate in and facilitate a review of the state and federal standards related to the provision of a quality education by component school districts, services designed to support and facilitate continuous school improvement planning, services designed to address schoolwide behavior and climate issues and professional technical education and professional development for employees who provide those services.
- (d) Administrative and support services for component school districts, including but not limited to services designed to consolidate component school district business functions, liaison services between the Department of Education and component school districts and registration of children being taught by private teachers, parents [or], legal guardians or foster parents pursuant to ORS 339.035.
- (e) Other services that an education service district is required to provide by state or federal law, including but not limited to services required under ORS 339.005 to 339.090.
- (3) In addition to the services specified in subsection (2) of this section, a local service plan may include other services that are designed to meet regional needs.
- (4) A local service plan shall also contain annual performance measures for the education service district.
 - (5) A local service plan must:
 - (a) Be adopted by the board of the education service district.
- (b) After being adopted by the board of the education service district, be approved on or before March 1 by resolution of two-thirds of the component school districts that are a part of the education service district and that have at least a majority of the pupils included in the average daily membership of the education service district, as determined by the reports of such school districts for the preceding year, enrolled in the schools of the school districts.
- (6) Notwithstanding the process for approval and adoption required by subsection (5) of this section, if the component school districts approve an amendment to a local service plan pursuant to subsection (5)(b) of this section, the board of an education service district may amend a local service plan that has been previously adopted by the board and approved by the component school districts. An amendment to a local service plan may be done at any time.
- (7) An education service district may provide the services required by the local service plan directly through the staff of the district. In addition, an education service district may provide services required by the local service plan through the operation of a public school, a public charter school pursuant to ORS chapter 338, an alternative school or a preschool.
- (8) An education service district may provide the services required by the local service plan in cooperation with another education service district or with a school district. In addition, an education service district may contract with a public or private entity for the provision of services.

[3]

SECTION 3. ORS 339.030 is amended to read:

339.030. (1) In the following cases, children shall not be required to attend public full-time schools:

- (a) Children being taught in a private or parochial school in the courses of study usually taught in grades 1 through 12 in the public schools and in attendance for a period equivalent to that required of children attending public schools in the 1994-1995 school year.
- (b) Children proving to the satisfaction of the district school board that they have acquired equivalent knowledge to that acquired in the courses of study taught in grades 1 through 12 in the public schools.
- (c) Children being taught for a period equivalent to that required of children attending public schools by a private teacher the courses of study usually taught in grades 1 through 12 in the public school.
- (d) Children being educated in the children's home **or residence** by a parent [or], legal guardian **or foster parent**.
 - (e) Children excluded from attendance as provided by law.
- (2) The State Board of Education by rule shall establish procedures whereby, on a semiannual basis, an exemption from compulsory attendance may be granted to the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent of any child 16 or 17 years of age who is lawfully employed full-time, lawfully employed part-time and enrolled in school, a community college or an alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615. An exemption also may be granted to any child who is an emancipated minor or who has initiated the procedure for emancipation under ORS 419B.550 to 419B.558.

SECTION 4. ORS 339.035 is amended to read:

- 339.035. (1) As used in this section, "education service district" means the education service district that contains the school district of which the child is a resident.
- (2) When a child is taught or is withdrawn from a public school to be taught by a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher, as provided in ORS 339.030, the parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher must notify the education service district in writing. In addition, when a child who is taught by a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher moves to a new education service district, the parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher shall notify the new education service district in writing. The education service district shall acknowledge receipt of any notification in writing.
- (3) Children being taught as provided in subsection (2) of this section shall be examined at grades 3, 5, 8 and 10 in accordance with the following procedures:
- (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule a list of approved comprehensive examinations that are readily available.
- (b)(A) The parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent shall select an examination from the approved list and arrange to have the examination administered to the child by a qualified neutral person, as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.
- (B) If the child was withdrawn from public school, the first examination shall be administered to the child at least 18 months after the date on which the child was withdrawn from public school.
- (C) If the child never attended public or private school, the first examination shall be administered to the child prior to the end of grade three.
 - (c) The person administering the examination shall:
- (A) Score the examination; and
 - (B) Report the results of the examination to the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent.

- (d) Upon request of the superintendent of the education service district, the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent shall submit the results of the examination to the education service district.
- (4)(a) If the composite test score of the child places the child below the 15th percentile based on national norms, the child shall be given an additional examination within one year of when the first examination was administered.
- (b) If the composite test score of the child on the second examination shows a declining score, then the child shall be given an additional examination within one year of when the second examination was administered and the superintendent of the education service district may:
- (A) Allow the child to continue to be taught by a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher; or
- (B) Place the education of the child under the supervision of a person holding a teaching license who is selected by the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent at the expense of the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent. If the composite test score of the child continues to show a declining score, the superintendent of the education service district may:
- (i) Allow the child to continue under the educational supervision of a licensed teacher selected by the parent [or], legal guardian **or foster parent** and require that the child be given an additional examination within one year of when the last examination was administered;
- (ii) Allow the child to be taught by a parent, legal guardian, **foster parent** or private teacher and require that the child be given an additional examination within one year of when the last examination was administered; or
- (iii) Order the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent to send the child to school for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months as determined by the superintendent.
- (c) If the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent of the child does not consent to placing the education of the child under the supervision of a licensed teacher who is selected by the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent, then the superintendent of the education service district may order the child to return to school for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months as determined by the superintendent.
- (d) If the composite test score of the child on an examination is equal to or greater than the percentile score on the prior test, the child may be taught by a parent, legal guardian, **foster parent** or private teacher and for the next examination be examined pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection or subsection (3) of this section.
- (5)(a) Notwithstanding the examination requirements of subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the parent [or], legal guardian **or foster parent** of a child with disabilities who has an individualized education plan and is receiving special education and related services through the school district or who is being educated in accordance with a privately developed plan shall be evaluated for satisfactory educational progress according to the recommendations of the plan.
- (b) The parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent of a child with disabilities who was evaluated by service providers selected by the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent based on a privately developed plan shall submit a report of such evaluation to the education service district in lieu of the examination results required by subsections (3) and (4) of this section.
- (c) A child with disabilities described in this subsection shall not be subject to the examination requirements of subsections (3) and (4) of this section unless the examination is recommended in the plan in effect for the child.

SECTION 5. ORS 339.250 is amended to read:

- 339.250. (1) Public school students shall comply with rules for the government of such schools, pursue the prescribed course of study, use the prescribed textbooks and submit to the teachers' authority.
- (2) Pursuant to the written policies of a district school board, an individual who is a teacher, administrator, school employee or school volunteer may use reasonable physical force upon a student when and to the extent the individual reasonably believes it necessary to maintain order in the school or classroom or at a school activity or event, whether or not it is held on school property. The district school board shall adopt written policies to implement this subsection and shall inform such individuals of the existence and content of these policies.
- (3) The district school board may authorize the discipline, suspension or expulsion of any refractory student and may suspend or expel any student who assaults or menaces a school employee or another student. The age of a student and the past pattern of behavior of a student shall be considered prior to a suspension or expulsion of a student. As used in this subsection "menace" means by word or conduct the student intentionally attempts to place a school employee or another student in fear of imminent serious physical injury.
- (4)(a) Willful disobedience, willful damage or injury to school property, use of threats, intimidation, harassment or coercion against any fellow student or school employee, open defiance of a teacher's authority or use or display of profane or obscene language is sufficient cause for discipline, suspension or expulsion from school.
- (b) District school boards shall develop policies on managing students who threaten violence or harm in public schools. The policies adopted by a school district shall include staff reporting methods and shall require an administrator to consider:
- (A) Immediately removing from the classroom setting any student who has threatened to injure another person or to severely damage school property.
- (B) Placing the student in a setting where the behavior will receive immediate attention, including, but not limited to, the office of the school principal, vice principal, assistant principal or counselor or a school psychologist licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the office of any licensed mental health professional.
- (C) Requiring the student to be evaluated by a licensed mental health professional before allowing the student to return to the classroom setting.
- (c) The administrator shall notify the parent or legal guardian of the student's behavior and the school's response.
- (d) District school boards may enter into contracts with licensed mental health professionals to perform the evaluations required under paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (e) District school boards shall allocate any funds necessary for school districts to implement the policies adopted under paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (5) Expulsion of a student shall not extend beyond one calendar year and suspension shall not extend beyond 10 school days.
- (6)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (5) of this section, a school district shall have a policy that requires the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is determined to have:
- (A) Brought a weapon to a school, to school property under the jurisdiction of the district or to an activity under the jurisdiction of the school district;
- (B) Possessed, concealed or used a weapon in a school or on school property or at an activity under the jurisdiction of the district; or

- (C) Brought to or possessed, concealed or used a weapon at an interscholastic activity administered by a voluntary organization approved by the State Board of Education under ORS 339.430.
- (b) The policy shall allow an exception for courses, programs and activities approved by the school district that are conducted on school property, including but not limited to hunter safety courses, Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, weapons-related sports or weapons-related vocational courses. In addition, the State Board of Education may adopt by rule additional exceptions to be included in school district policies.
- (c) The policy shall allow a superintendent to modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.
- (d) The policy shall require a referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency of any student who is expelled under this subsection.
 - (e) For purposes of this subsection, "weapon" includes a:
- (A) "Firearm" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921;

- (B) "Dangerous weapon" as defined in ORS 161.015; or
- (C) "Deadly weapon" as defined in ORS 161.015.
- (7) The Department of Education shall collect data on any expulsions required pursuant to subsection (6) of this section including:
 - (a) The name of each school;
 - (b) The number of students expelled from each school; and
- (c) The types of weapons involved.
- (8) Notwithstanding ORS 336.010, a school district may require a student to attend school during nonschool hours as an alternative to suspension.
- (9) Unless a student is under expulsion for an offense that constitutes a violation of a school district policy adopted pursuant to subsection (6) of this section, a school district board shall consider and propose to the student prior to expulsion or leaving school, and document to the parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship, alternative programs of instruction or instruction combined with counseling for the student that are appropriate and accessible to the student in the following circumstances:
 - (a) When a student is expelled pursuant to subsection (4) of this section;
- (b) Following a second or subsequent occurrence within any three-year period of a severe disciplinary problem with a student;
- (c) When it has been determined that a student's attendance pattern is so erratic that the student is not benefiting from the educational program; or
- (d) When a parent, [or] legal guardian or foster parent applies for a student's exemption from compulsory attendance on a semiannual basis as provided in ORS 339.030 (2).
- (10) A school district board may consider and propose to a student who is under expulsion or to a student prior to expulsion for an offense that constitutes a violation of a school district policy adopted pursuant to subsection (6) of this section, and document to the parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship, alternative programs of instruction or instruction combined with counseling for the student that are appropriate and accessible to the student.
- (11) Information on alternative programs provided under subsections (9) and (10) of this section shall be in writing. The information need not be given to the student and the parent, guardian or person in parental relationship more often than once every six months unless the information has changed because of the availability of new programs.
 - (12)(a) The authority to discipline a student does not authorize the infliction of corporal pun-

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- ishment. Every resolution, bylaw, rule, ordinance or other act of a district school board, a public charter school or the Department of Education that permits or authorizes the infliction of corporal punishment upon a student is void and unenforceable.
- (b) As used in this subsection, "corporal punishment" means the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.
 - (c) As used in this subsection, "corporal punishment" does not mean:
 - (A) The use of physical force authorized by ORS 161.205 for the reasons specified therein; or
- (B) Physical pain or discomfort resulting from or caused by participation in athletic competition or other such recreational activity, voluntarily engaged in by a student.

SECTION 6. ORS 339.460 is amended to read:

- 339.460. (1) Homeschooled students shall not be denied by a school district the opportunity to participate in all interscholastic activities if the student fulfills the following conditions:
 - (a) The student must meet all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of:
 - (A) The school district's school or class attendance requirements; and
 - (B) The class requirements of the voluntary association administering interscholastic activities.
- (b)(A) The student must achieve a minimum score on an examination from the list adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to ORS 339.035. The examination shall be taken at the end of each school year and shall be used to determine eligibility for the following year. The minimum, composite test score that a student must achieve shall place the student at or above the 23rd percentile based on national norms. The parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent shall submit the examination results to the school district; or
- (B) A school district may adopt alternative requirements, in consultation with the parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent of a homeschooled student, that a student must meet to participate in interscholastic activities, including but not limited to a requirement that a student submit a portfolio of work samples to a school district committee for review to determine whether a student is eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.
- (c) Any public school student who chooses to be homeschooled must also meet the minimum standards as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection. The student may participate while awaiting examination results.
- (d) Any public school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a homeschooled student for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and for the following year. The student must take the required examinations at the end of the second year and meet the standards described in paragraph (b) of this subsection to become eligible for the third year.
- (e) The homeschooled student shall be required to fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, of other students participating in the interscholastic activity of the team or squad and shall be required to meet the same standards for acceptance on the team or squad. The homeschooled student must also comply with all public school requirements during the time of participation.
- (f) A homeschooled student participating in interscholastic activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates.
 - (2) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.
- (b) "Homeschooled students" are those children taught by private teachers, parents [or], legal guardians or foster parents as described in ORS 339.030.

- 1 (c) "Interscholastic activities" includes but is not limited to athletics, music, speech, and other related activities.
 - **SECTION 7.** ORS 339.505 is amended to read:

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- 339.505. (1) For purposes of the student accounting system required by ORS 339.515, the following definitions shall be used:
 - (a) "Graduate" means an individual who has:
 - (A) Not reached 21 years of age or whose 21st birthday occurs during the current school year;
- 8 (B) Met all state requirements and local requirements for attendance, competence and units of credit for high school; and
 - (C) Received one of the following:
 - (i) A high school diploma issued by a school district.
- 12 (ii) An adult high school diploma issued by an authorized community college.
- 13 (iii) A modified high school diploma based on the successful completion of an individual educa-14 tion plan.
 - (b) "School dropout" means an individual who:
 - (A) Has enrolled for the current school year, or was enrolled in the previous school year and did not attend during the current school year;
 - (B) Is not a high school graduate;
 - (C) Has not received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate; and
- 20 (D) Has withdrawn from school.
- 21 (c) "School dropout" does not include a student described by at least one of the following:
 - (A) A student who has transferred to another educational system or institution that leads to graduation and the school district has received a written request for the transfer of the student's records or transcripts.
 - (B) A student who is deceased.
 - (C) A student who is participating in home instruction paid for by the district.
 - (D) A student who is being taught by a private teacher, parent [or], legal guardian or foster parent pursuant to ORS 339.030 (1)(c) or (d).
 - (E) A student who is participating in a Department of Education approved public or private education program, an alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615 or a hospital education program, or is residing in a Department of Human Services facility.
 - (F) A student who is temporarily residing in a shelter care program certified by the Oregon Youth Authority or the Department of Human Services or in a juvenile detention facility.
 - (G) A student who is enrolled in a foreign exchange program.
- 35 (H) A student who is temporarily absent from school because of suspension, a family emergency, 36 or severe health or medical problems that prohibit the student from attending school.
 - (I) A student who has received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.
 - (2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe by rule when an unexplained absence becomes withdrawal, when a student is considered enrolled in school, acceptable alternative education programs under ORS 336.615 to 336.665 and the standards for excused absences for purposes of ORS 339.065 for family emergencies and health and medical problems.
 - **SECTION 8.** ORS 807.066 is amended to read:
- 807.066. The Department of Transportation shall not issue driving privileges to a person who is under 18 years of age unless the person:
- 45 (1) Has graduated from high school and provides the department with proof of graduation sat-

isfactory to the department;

- (2) Has received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate from a community college and provides the department with proof of the certificate satisfactory to the department;
- (3) Provides the department with a form provided by the department and signed by the principal, or the designee of the principal, of the secondary school attended by the person that declares that the person is enrolled in a secondary school of this state or any other state;
- (4) Provides the department with a form provided by the department and signed by the authorized representative of the community college attended by the person that declares that the person is making satisfactory progress toward a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
- (5) Provides the department with a form provided by the department and signed by the authorized representative of the community college attended by the person that declares that the person is making satisfactory progress toward a high school diploma;
- (6) Provides the department with a form provided by the department and signed by the authorized representative of the education service district or school district having jurisdiction over the area of the person's residence that declares that the person is being taught by a private teacher [or], parent, legal guardian or foster parent in compliance with ORS 339.035;
- (7) Provides the department with documentation satisfactory to the department that indicates that the person is exempted from school attendance requirements due to circumstances beyond the control of the person; or
- (8) Provides the department with documentation satisfactory to the department that the person is exempt under ORS 339.030 (2) from the requirement to attend school.
- SECTION 9. (1) The amendments to ORS 329.465, 334.175, 339.030, 339.035, 339.250, 339.460 and 339.505 by sections 1 to 7 of this 2007 Act apply to children taught by a parent, legal guardian, foster parent or private teacher on or after July 1, 2007.
- (2) The amendments to ORS 807.066 by section 8 of this 2007 Act apply to driving privileges issued on or after July 1, 2007.
- SECTION 10. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect July 1, 2007.