

# Senate Bill 503

Sponsored by Senator WHITSETT; Senators GEORGE, METSGER, MORSE, Representatives GARRARD, SHIELDS

## 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**.

Extends period of time for which school district may receive additional distribution for small high school if high school no longer qualifies as small high school only because two school districts merged and new school district's weighted average daily membership exceeds limitations on weighted average daily membership to qualify as small high school.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to small high schools; creating new provisions; amending ORS 327.077; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 327.077 is amended to read:

6 327.077. (1) A school may qualify as a remote small elementary school if the average daily  
7 membership in grades one through eight for an elementary school teaching:

8 (a) Eight grades is below 224.

9 (b) Seven grades is below 196.

10 (c) Six grades is below 168.

11 (d) Five grades is below 140.

12 (e) Four grades is below 112.

13 (f) Three grades is below 84.

14 (g) Two grades is below 56.

15 (h) One grade is below 28.

16 (2) A school may qualify as a small high school if:

17 (a) The school is in a school district that has an ADMw of less than 8,500; and

18 (b) The average daily membership in grades 9 through 12 for a high school teaching:

19 (A) Four grades is below 350.

20 (B) Three grades is below 267.

21 (3) No elementary school shall qualify as a remote small elementary school under subsection (1)  
22 of this section if it is within eight miles by the nearest traveled road from another elementary school  
23 unless there are physiographic conditions that make transportation to another school not feasible.

24 (4)(a) If an elementary school in a school district qualifies as a remote small elementary school,  
25 the district shall have an additional amount added to the district's ADMw.

26 (b) The additional amount =  $\{224 - (\text{ADM}_a \div (\text{number of grades in the school} \div \text{eight}))\} \times$   
27  $0.0045 \times \text{ADM}_a \times \text{distance adjustment}$ .

28 (5)(a) If a high school in a district qualifies as a small high school, the district shall have an  
29 additional amount added to the district's ADMw.

30 (b) The additional amount =  $\{350 - (\text{ADM}_a \div (\text{number of grades in the school} \div \text{four}))\} \times$

**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 0.0029 × ADMa.

2 (6) The distance adjustment for an elementary school = 0.025 for each 10th of a mile more than  
3 eight miles that a school is away from the nearest elementary school measured by the nearest  
4 traveled road or 1.0, whichever is less.

5 (7)(a) A school may qualify as a remote small elementary school under this section only if the  
6 location of the school has not changed since January 1, 1995, and if the school qualified as a remote  
7 small school on July 18, 1995.

8 (b) A school may qualify as a small high school under this section only if the location of the  
9 school has not changed since January 1, 1995, and if the school qualified as a small high school on  
10 October 23, 1999.

11 (c) A public charter school as defined in ORS 338.005 may qualify as a remote small elementary  
12 school under this section only if the location of the school has not changed since January 1, 1995,  
13 and if the school qualified as a nonchartered public remote small school on July 18, 1995.

14 (d) A public charter school as defined in ORS 338.005 may qualify as a small high school under  
15 this section only if the location of the school has not changed since January 1, 1995, and if the  
16 school qualified as a nonchartered public remote small school on July 18, 1995.

17 (e) The Superintendent of Public Instruction may waive the requirements of paragraph (a), (b),  
18 (c) or (d) of this subsection if the superintendent determines that exceptional circumstances exist.

19 (f) An alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615 may not qualify as a small high  
20 school under this section.

21 (8) The opening of a public charter school shall not disqualify a school as a remote small ele-  
22 mentary school under subsection (3) of this section or change the distance adjustment for a school  
23 under subsection (6) of this section.

24 (9)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2), (5) and (7)(b) and (d) of this section, *[if two high schools*  
25 *merge and prior to the merger at least one of the high schools qualified as a small high school under*  
26 *this section,]* the Department of Education shall continue to add an additional amount pursuant to  
27 subsection (5) of this section to the ADMw of *[the]* a school district *[in which the new merged high*  
28 *school is located that is equal to the higher of:]* **if:**

29 **(A) Two high schools in that school district merged and, prior to the merger, at least one**  
30 **of the high schools qualified as a small high school under this section; or**

31 **(B) The school district is the result of a merger of two or more school districts and at**  
32 **least one high school in the new school district no longer qualifies as a small high school only**  
33 **because the new school district does not have an ADMw of less than 8,500.**

34 **(b)(A) If two high schools merged, the amount added to the ADMw of the school district,**  
35 **as provided by this subsection, is the higher of:**

36 **[(A)] (i)** The additional amount the school district of each of the former small high schools would  
37 have received under this section for the small high school based on the ADMa of each of the high  
38 schools prior to the merger; or

39 **[(B)] (ii)** In the case of a high school that remains qualified as a small high school under sub-  
40 section (2) of this section after a merger, the ADMa of the merged small high school.

41 **(B) If two or more school districts merged, the amount added to the ADMw of the new**  
42 **school district, as provided by this subsection, is the additional amount the school district**  
43 **of a former small high school would have received under this section for the small high**  
44 **school based on the ADMa of the high school.**

45 **[(b)] (c)** The department shall add the additional amount under this subsection only for the first

1 four fiscal years after the merger of the two high schools **or the school districts** is final. If the  
2 merger of the two high schools **or the school districts** becomes final on or before September 1, for  
3 purposes of this paragraph the merger shall be considered final in the prior fiscal year.

4 (10) For purposes of this section:

5 (a) The “adjusted average daily membership” or “ADMa” for an elementary school shall be the  
6 average daily membership for the school, but no less than 25.

7 (b) The “adjusted average daily membership” or “ADMa” for a high school shall be the average  
8 daily membership for the school, but no less than 60.

9 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 327.077 by section 1 of this 2009 Act apply to dis-**  
10 **tributions made to school districts on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.**

11 **SECTION 3. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
12 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**  
13 **on its passage.**

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