

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Dana Richardson, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requests that Superintendent of Public Instruction promote Chinese language study in Oregon schools.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Deficiencies in foreign language classes offered in Oregon
- Acquisition of foreign languages at a young age
- Cost of language immersion programs
- Workload at the Department of Education
- Evaluation of language programs by local school boards

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requests, rather than directs, Superintendent to promote Chinese language study in Oregon schools.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2007, the Oregon House of Representatives passed House Resolution 3, urging secondary schools to encourage students to learn Mandarin Chinese and to explore opportunities to study in China. In 2008, five Oregon school districts offered classes in Mandarin Chinese. It has been reported that Mandarin Chinese is by far the most-spoken first language in the world, but it is only the 8th-most-popular language to study in the United States.

A related measure, House Bill 3628A authorizes the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with another nation or another nation's public agency to ensure that instruction of Mandarin Chinese is available to public school students by facilitating placement of teachers who speak Mandarin Chinese fluently.