

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 248

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Prepared by: John Terpening
Reviewed by: Monica Brown
Date: 2/24/2011

Measure Description:

Extends applicability of law that requires school districts to offer half-day kindergarten and allows school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Summary of Revenue Impact: See Revenue Impact Statement

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure extends the applicability of law requiring school districts to offer half-day kindergarten and allows school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten through the 2014-2015 school year. Beginning in 2015-2016 the measure requires school districts to offer full-day kindergarten, adds kindergarten to the definition of a remote small elementary school, and removes the requirement that aggregate day's membership of kindergarteners be calculated on the basis of a half-day program beginning in 2015-2016. Currently all kindergarten students are given a 0.5 weight calculation in the State School Fund distribution formula. The removal of this half-day program requirement would give kindergarten students a full 1.0 weight distribution in the State School Fund distribution.

The October 1 school enrollment summary indicates that 40,656 students are enrolled in all types of kindergarten state-wide. According to the Department of Education report dated February 7, 2011, there are 12,441 full-day kindergarten students in a traditional five-day school week throughout 260 schools in 57 school districts in Oregon in 2010-2011. Additionally there are 2,209 full-day kindergarten students in a non-traditional school week throughout 63 schools in 51 school districts in Oregon in 2010-2011.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The measure requires school districts to offer full-day kindergarten, but the manner in which those services will be offered can and may be unique district by district. Until aggregate weight membership is determined, the potential for a gap in resources versus the necessary expenditures to deliver services will be unknown. Circumstances within each school district would determine its ability to make changes in staffing levels, food service and transportation, or to accommodate facility needs. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that participation in full-day kindergarten is not compulsory.