

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 252 - B

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

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Measure Description:

Establishes School District Collaboration Grant Program to provide funding for school districts to improve student achievement.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

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 establishes the School District Collaboration Grant Program, administered by the Department of Education (ODE), to provide funding for school districts to improve student achievement. The measure provides that ODE may expend no more than 5% of the amount appropriated for the grant program to pay for administrative costs. For school districts to apply for a grant the district must receive approval from exclusive bargaining representatives for teachers of the school district or from the teachers themselves if not represented, as well as the school board chairperson and superintendent. The measure allows the Department to establish rules for implementation of the grant program including any waivers allowed and directs the Department to accumulate, evaluate and publish student achievement results of school districts receiving the grants to determine effectiveness.

The measure establishes the School District Collaboration Grant Account separate and distinct from the General Fund, continuously appropriates moneys in the account to ODE, and credits the interest earned back to the fund. The measure modifies the grant distribution method for each school district based on ADMw, total school districts receiving a grant, and available funds for distribution.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The source and the amount of funds to be awarded are not identified in the measure. The Department will utilize existing staff to establish rules for the grant program and wait until a source and amount of funds are determined before implementing the program.

Once funding has been identified, in order to implement the grant program, the Department would allocate the anticipated workload to three existing positions for the administration of the program including, start-up, application criteria and review, and the accumulation, evaluation and publishing of results required. The Department estimates that staff time will be similar to the School Improvement Grant program currently administered by the Department. It is anticipated that \$5 million General Fund will be provided in other legislation to the Department for the purposes of the grant program.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the demand for the individual grants to be awarded are indeterminate and that excessive demand may require additional staff to administer the program. Depending on the cumulative workload requirements added this session or possible budget reductions, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.