

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Linda Lindholm, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/28, 5/3, 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts to give priority for participation in Expanded Options Program to eligible at-risk students if school district has met credit hour cap or if the credit hour cap has not been exceeded. Modifies waiver for participation in Expanded Options Program to ensure participation by eligible at-risk students. Directs that at-risk students who participate in the accelerated college credit programs are not required to make any payment for participation. Changes, for purposes of waiver, requirement that school districts offer dual credit technical preparation program to requirement that school district offer accelerated college credit program. Eliminates requirement that duration of a waiver be the length of the program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statistics of student participation in expanded option programs and related demographics
- Impacts of college experience, especially for disadvantaged or at-risk youth
- School district ability to opt out of expanded options
- Public funding for participation
- Motivation, access and transition into higher education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Expanded Options Programs are aimed at providing a seamless education system for students enrolled in grades 11 and 12, encouraging them to transition into post-secondary educational opportunities. According to the Department of Education (ODE) 162 of Oregon's 197 school districts participated in the Expanded Options Programs during the 2009-10 school year. Through the program, 1767 students earned high school and post-secondary credits simultaneously, without having to pay tuition. Twelve community colleges and five Oregon University System schools enrolled students who participated in the program. Students who have dropped out of high school can also earn their high school diploma with the Expanded Options Program. In many cases, the traditional high school environment does not work for all students. Some students who are at risk of dropping out of high school have the skills to attend college and succeed. House Bill 3106-A makes it easier for at-risk students to move to the front of the line for greater learning opportunities without being charged for college tuition while they are still in high school.

Current statute establishes requirements for Expanded Options Programs and places caps on the number of credits available based on school size. This measure strengthens the Expanded Options Program by ensuring that school districts both meet the demand for the program and make it available to as many students as possible. At-risk students are given additional options to continue or complete their education, earn concurrent high school and college credits and gain early entry into post-secondary education. The measure requires districts to give priority to and increase the number of at-risk students when entry into accelerated college credit programs is limited. Some school districts chose to waive out of the Expanded Options Program because they offer alternatives like Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes. The waiver process is tightened to decrease the number of districts that opt-out of the program.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.