

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to Ways and Means
Vote:	4 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Bonamici, George, Morse, Hass
Nays:	Shields
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Linda Lindholm, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/10, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends applicability of current law that requires school districts to offer half-day kindergarten and allows school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten. Requires school districts to offer full-day kindergarten, beginning with 2015-2016 school year. Removes the requirement that aggregate days of membership of kindergarten pupils be calculated on the basis of a half-day program, beginning with the 2015-2016 State School Fund distribution.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Extended learning time results and benefits
- Early learning opportunities to close achievement gap
- Level of support and priority from teachers, administrators, agencies and parents
- Equal access and equity statewide
- Implementation and timelines
- Resources for State School Fund distribution

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Research studies substantiate the conclusion that the more time children spend in education programs, the more they learn and the more they succeed in later schooling. Consistent attendance at a full-day kindergarten program has been shown to optimize children's early learning opportunities and to help close the achievement gap for low-income students, students with limited English proficiency and minority students.

The Oregon Legislative Assembly directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to form a Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to make practical and sustainable policy recommendations to the Assembly. By unanimous vote the Committee recommended requiring Oregon school districts and public charter schools to provide full-day kindergarten for all Oregon public school students to ensure equal access and equity no later than the 2015-2016 school year. Prior to the 2015-2016 school year, school districts have the option of providing full-day kindergarten. According to ODE, there are almost 14,000 kindergarteners (one out of three) in over 100 Oregon school districts currently attending full-day programs. On average, 60% of U.S. kindergarten children attend full-day programs. Statutes regarding the provision of half-day and supplemental kindergarten are scheduled to sunset with the 2011-2012 school year. Senate Bill 248 extends the full-day kindergarten provisions through June 30, 2014.

Currently, the State School Fund distribution formula allows a .5 weight for each enrolled kindergarten student, regardless of whether the student is attending half-day or full-day kindergarten. Senate Bill 248 changes the distribution formula to a full weight (1.0) for each enrolled student, stipulating that funding for kindergarten students be calculated the same as it is for students in grades one through eight, commencing with the 2015-2016 State School Fund distribution.

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