



OREGON HEAD START ASSOCIATION

MEASURE: HB 4165
EXHIBIT: 27
2012 SESSION H RULES
DATE: 2/8/12 PAGES: 5
SUBMITTED BY: Mark Nelson

HB 4165 Key Issues

1. Direct the Early Learning Council to ensure all Oregon Prekindergarten Program grantees adhere to federal Head Start standards.
2. Direct the Early Learning Council to implement a statewide kindergarten readiness assessment by January 1, 2013.
3. The Legislature should not approve early learning "hubs" until the Early Learning Council brings a proposal with the following elements for its approval:
 - a. Specific functions and administration of hubs;
 - b. Specific functions related to funding flowing through hubs to programs; and
 - c. State budgeting changes or requirements related to hubs.

Oregon Head Start (OPK) Current Administrative Oversight Compared to the

Proposed Early Learning Council Structure

Current Administrative Structure for Oregon Head Start Preschool Programs (OPK)	Early Learning Council's Proposed Administrative Structure for Oregon Head Start Preschool Programs
FUNDING DISTRIBUTION	FUNDING DISTRIBUTION
Funds for OPK are Allocated from the Oregon State Legislature to the Oregon Department of Education	The Oregon State Legislature Distributes a Large Lump Sum of Funds to the Oregon Education Investment Board for Later Distribution Through Several New Channels to Early Learning Programs, Including OPK
STATE ADMINISTRATORS*	STATE ADMINISTRATORS
The Oregon Department of Education Currently Employs One Director and 1.5 Staff to Oversee Individual OPK Programs and also Distribute State Funding through Grants to Programs	The Oregon Education Investment Board and its Staff; the Early Learning Council and its Staff; the Early Childhood Education Director and His/Her Staff; Regional Hubs and Their Staff and Family Resource Managers
LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS*	LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS (SAME)
Individual OPK Programs Employ a Director, Preschool Teachers, Family Outreach Personnel, and Other Staff to Deliver Services to Families. Programs also are required to have Family Councils Comprised of Parents and a Community-Based Oversight Board	Individual OPK Programs Employ a Director, Preschool Teachers, Family Outreach Personnel, and Other Staff to Deliver Services to Families. Programs also are required to have Family Councils Comprised of Parents and a Community-Based Oversight Board
MOVING FUNDING INTO PROGRAMS	MOVING FUNDING INTO PROGRAMS
OPK Programs Receive State Funds from the Oregon Department of Education and Serve Children and Families with Oversight from the Federal and State Departments of Education	The Oregon Education Investment Board and its Staff would Allocate Funds to the Early Learning Council
Individual Programs Use Funds to Provide Educational and Nutritional Support to Children and Families as Well as Screening for Physical, Mental and Dental Health and Providing Connections to Physical, Mental, and Dental Health Care	The Early Learning Council and the New Early Childhood Education Director Would Oversee Distribution of Early Learning Funds to Regional Hubs
	Regional Hubs Receive and Distribute Funds to Early Learning Programs As They See Fit
	Family Resource Managers Refer Families to Appropriate Services
	Programs Coordinate with Regional Hubs and Family Resource Managers to Provide Services to Children and Families
*The federal government pays a majority of the costs associated with state and local Head Start administration, monitoring, audits and training. It also caps administration costs for each program.	Individual Programs Use Funds to Provide Educational and Nutritional Support to Children and Families as Well as Screening for Physical, Mental and Dental Health and Providing Connections to Physical, Mental, and Dental Health Care



Oregon Head Start Association



February 1, 2012

Duke Shepard,
Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Duke:

Thank you for your response dated January 11, 2012. Due to the Martin Luther King Holiday with no mail service, we did not receive it until the 17th. We understand many legislators received copies on the previous Friday. We found it awkward to receive it much later and not to have it noted that it went out to many others as well.

We would like to clarify the intent of the correspondence the Oregon Head Start Association has had with your office over the past few months.

In late September of 2011, we were asked by your office to write a one page letter of support for the Race to the Top grant. Although we had some reservations because we had not participated in the grant development and we had not reviewed the grant application, we knew that a letter from the Association was a requirement for submission of the grant. We did not want to block any possibility that Oregon might receive the grant and felt that, if awarded, the funds would provide the opportunity to implement many parts of the Governors' plan making it less likely that he would look to divert funds from our programs. Since the grant requires an Early Learning Council that meets the requirements of the Head Start Act, we assumed that, if awarded, there would be many opportunities for our participation in shaping the implementation.

There are many things in the Governor's proposal that we do support. We appreciate the continued use of the Federal Head Start Performance Standards and regulations for the Oregon Prekindergarten program. We want to thank you for proposing to adopt the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework (child outcomes) for all children three to five years of age in statute for the early learning programs. We also support revising the Early Childhood Foundations for children zero to three to align with the Framework. We support your goal that "by June 30, 2013, the Department of Education shall align Common Core State Standards with the Oregon Early Learning System outcomes and the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework". We agree that there is a great need to upgrade and improve some early

childhood services and to bring more coordination, collaboration, and accountability to many parts of the system.

We feel that the Head Start Child Development Early Learning Framework, Head Start Performance Standards, assessment, data collection, monitoring and accountability systems of our programs make us part of the solution, not part of the problem. For example, we are ready to work with you and other stakeholders on a robust school readiness assessment that appropriately gauges developmental benchmarks. There seems to be little recognition of our willingness to collaborate on this and other key reforms coming from your office.

We have been administered by the Department of Education since the inception of the Oregon Prekindergarten program by the Legislature in 1987. We are very closely connected with Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education and collaborate with them to serve children with disabilities that can also benefit from Head Start services. We connect with kindergarten programs by developing transition plans at the local community level. ESDs and School Districts are among our grantees. In addition, many other grantees have sites located in school buildings. We are part of the 0 to 20 continuum.

Our December 28, 2011 letter to you and Pam Curtis was an attempt to respond in a more positive way to a very negative letter we received from you in response to our "White Paper" outlining our key concerns which we shared at a face to face meeting with you. Head Start has not been involved as a member on the Council; those you have selected represent their perspectives on the issues, not necessarily those of the Oregon Head Start Association or its members. We respect them for their positions and will communicate directly with them as you indicated that they represent Head Start. We have respect for both of them. This is not the same as having professionals who are working on the ground in Head Start programs on the Council as required in the Head Start Act.

We would hope to find a more positive basis for communicating with your office so that we can be supportive of many of the elements you propose. We do see that you have not proposed changes to the Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten Program in the 2012 Legislative session, although there is an immediate trigger that we understand will occur in 2013. In other words, the legislation makes unsupportable changes later rather than sooner. Currently the legislature sets Head Start's budget with target population goals, which gives certainty to families and programs alike. Your global budget approach appears to remove the legislature from this role and gives it to local hubs who decide what early learning programs get funded.

We are concerned about the pooling of funds under the proposed global budgets for the education hubs and what that might mean for the 2013 session. The concept of having Oregon Head Start Prekindergarten funds in a pool with no assurance that they would be used for that purpose is not one we can support.

We noted that we had heard plans to have an Executive Order to broaden the representation on the Early Learning Council to address the requirements of the Head Start Act. We now see that HB 4165 proposes that the required members be ex officio. This non voting status would not meet the intent of the Act as clarified in a memo dated October 13, 2011 from the Administration for Children and Families. As we have expressed before, we believe this will cause major problems with the federal government. As previously offered, we stand ready to help with this language.

Our association does not wish to act like an adversary with you, Duke. We do have serious concerns and we do have areas where we are in alignment. We want to be a part of the solution but will not do so at the expense of reducing the number of families we serve or the level of comprehensive services we provide that meet the requirements of the Head Start Act.

Until we are shown more detail about the proposed early learning hubs and how they will impact families on an everyday basis, and how they will administer programs and divide funding, we cannot support the proposal. We look forward to a robust conversation with you about this issue, as we work together to serve Oregon's youngest and most in need citizens.

Sincerely,



Judy M. Miller, Executive Director
Oregon Head Start Association

Nancy Perin, President
Oregon Head Start Association

Cc: Legislators
Head Start Directors

Oregon Head Start Association
Judy Miller, M. Ed. Executive Director
805 Liberty NE, Suite 2 • Salem, OR 97301 • Phone: [503.779.2556](tel:5037792556)
Fax: [503.399.9858](tel:5033999858) • web site: www.ohsa.net
Email: jmiller@ohsa.net