

**Oregon Department of Education
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 6/18/2013)

The Oregon Department of Education is seeking authority to apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the amount of \$8.9 million for a four year Safe Schools/Health Students Grant.

Grant funds would be used support development of programs in three school districts. The programs are for identifying and implementing school-wide practices that are designed to keep students safe and engaged at school and for developing alternatives to suspension and expulsion disciplinary practices. Almost all of the funding would be directed at these three districts for training of district staff, and for counseling of students to assist in increasing school attendance, decreasing drug use, and working with juvenile offenders. The largest expected expenditure of grant funds is for mental health professionals to assist students and their families in address mental health issues that affect school performance.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request
Oregon Department of Education
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant

Analyst: Doug Wilson

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the amount of \$8.9 million for a four year Safe Schools/Health Students Grant.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is requesting authority to apply for a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. The grant is for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Planning, Local Education Agency, and Local Community Cooperative Agreements Initiative. ODE is applying for a four-year \$8.9 million grant which is due July 1, 2013. The agency became aware of the grant on May 28. ODE will partner with the Oregon health Authority, Mental Health and Addictions Services as well as with organizations already in place in the communities.

The agency would use most of the grant funding to support development of programs in three school districts. The programs are for identifying and implementing school-wide positive practices that are designed to keep students safe and engaged at school and for developing alternatives to suspension and expulsion disciplinary practices. The grant would fund two positions at the Department of Education (an Education Specialist 2 and an Office Specialist) and district staff including a district director or coordinator for the program, a trainer, juvenile counselors, and support staff. The counselor resources would provide individual on-site support for students to assist with increasing school attendance, decreased drug use and bullying, and working with juvenile offenders. The largest expected expenditure of grant funds is for mental health professionals to assist students and their families to address mental health issues that affect school performance. There are also resources allocated for evaluation of the programs funded with the grant as well as purchase of prevention curriculum for the local districts.

There are no matching requirements for the grant. ODE anticipates expending \$4.43 million in each of the next two biennia if they receive the grant funding.