

## STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

## Senate Committee On Education

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 03/03/15

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference  
(Printed A-Eng).

**Meeting Dates:** 02/19, 03/03

**Vote:**  
Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelsner, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

**Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes grant program that provides matching fund grants to school districts for capital costs. Tasks Department of Education with administering program. Finances program with net proceeds of Article XI-P bonds. Specifies eligibility requirements, potential grant amounts, and distribution requirements. Establishes Office of School Facilities and specifies responsibilities. Requires annual convention of school facilities advisory group. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Findings of Task Force on School Capital Improvement Planning
- Matching grants as a means to incentivize bonds
- Infrastructure needs for full-day kindergarten
- Funding needs for seismic renovation
- Benefits of matching grants for small school districts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Exempts projects funded by grant program from standards specified in ORS 286A.810. Revises grant amount calculations and priority list. Prohibits school districts from using portion of State School Fund grant that is attributable to facility grant for capital construction costs. Limits total amount of State School Fund distributed as facility grants to \$14 million per biennium. Limits amount Department of Education may expend on expenses incurred by Office of School Facilities to \$6 million per biennium. Applies to distributions commencing in 2015-2016.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 540 (2013) established the Task Force on School Capital Improvement Planning, which issued a report in October of 2014. The Task Force called for a four-part Oregon School Facilities Program in their report, including new bonding and matching grants for pre-kindergarten through grade twelve capital needs and the establishment of an Office of School Facilities.

Senate Bill 447-A establishes the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Account in the State Treasury, consisting of net proceeds of Article XI-P bonds and other moneys made available by the Legislative Assembly. Senate Bill 447-A requires the Department of Education to administer a grant program that uses these proceeds to provide matching fund grants to school districts for capital costs.