

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/18/15

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

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/18

Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates General Funds to Oregon Health Authority for school-based health centers. Provides \$952,000 to establish funding parity, \$900,000 for administration, and \$97,000 to contract with nonprofit for technical assistance in planning. Sets appropriation date for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health status and educational attainment are linked
- Funding formula penalizes counties that invest in multiple school-based health centers
- Interest in planning by other counties
- School-based health centers are health care access point for traditionally underserved populations
- School district and parental roles

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires additional funding for school-based health centers. Provides additional \$52,000 in parity funding, \$900,000 for planning and administration, and \$97,000 for technical assistance to contract with nonprofit organization.

BACKGROUND:

School-based health centers (SBHCs) have existed in Oregon since 1986 to provide physical, mental and preventive health services for children on school grounds. Primary care providers, mental health practitioners and dental professionals are available to students. ORS 413.225 recognizes SBHCs as part of the safety net system of care.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reports that as of January 2015, there are 68 certified SBHCs and nine planning sites. An additional eight more SBHCs will open during 2015. For the 2013-2014 year, services were available to 52,466 students in 20 counties. SBHCs served 23,797 students of which 43 percent of children were on Medicaid, 17 percent on private insurance, four percent on another public insurance and 36 percent were on no insurance (or status was unknown).

In 2013, House Bill 2445 provided \$3.9 million in additional funding to SBHCs. The law increased the 2013-2015 funding formula from its 2009 levels. Counties with one certified SBHC receive \$60,000 per year and counties with an additional certified SBHC receive \$53,000 per year per center. The local public health authority in each county provides the funds to support SBHCs. The specific expenditure of the funds is a decision between the local public health authority and its partners. In the 2013-2015 biennium, the SBHC State Planning Office awarded 14 communities, across 11 counties, planning grants for SBHCs.

OHA interviewed 26 counties regarding their interest in planning new SBHCs. Of those interviewed, 11 indicated they would be “very interested” and nine indicated they would be “somewhat interested” for the upcoming biennium. These counties projected a total of 22–25 potential new SBHCs.