

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 03/26/15**Action:** Do Pass And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 03/10, 03/26**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to assist school districts in achieving specified goals related to school discipline by contracting with local entities and providing grant moneys. Appropriates unspecified amount to ODE out of General Fund to support discipline goals. Requires sunset July 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Disproportionate effects of discipline on minorities
- Impact of exclusionary discipline on 40-40-20 goals
- Opportunity and achievement gaps
- Staff and teacher training
- Diversity training
- Reliance on exclusionary discipline due to lack of resources for other options
- Community-based organizations as a resource for cultural training and knowledge

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A study of six Oregon school districts in 2011-2012 identified that roughly 6.4 percent of students were suspended or expelled from school, and that nearly 40 percent of students who were suspended had received more than one suspension. The report further indicated that the percentage of students receiving exclusionary discipline was 2.5 times higher for male students than female students, higher for students in special education than students not in special education, and higher for American Indian, Black, Hispanic, and multiracial students than Asian or White students.

Senate Bill 554 directs ODE to assist school districts in achieving school discipline-related goals including: implementing strategies that increase academic achievement; reducing the amount of time students are out of the classroom as a result of disciplinary sanctions; and reducing disparities in rates of discipline between racial, ethnic, income, disability and gender-related groups. The bill proposes that the department shall provide assistance by entering into contracts with local entities to provide consultation and training services, and also by providing grant moneys to school districts to plan and implement strategies. The bill further appropriates an unspecified amount out of the General Fund to ODE to assist school districts.