

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Education

MEASURE: HB 3319 A
CARRIER: Rep. Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/17/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/30, 04/17

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Doherty, Frederick, McLain, Piluso, Reardon

Nays: 4 - Barreto, Hack, Sprenger, Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to report to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) on strategies and activities used to increase high school graduation rates or reduce chronic absenteeism. Requires ODE to report to Legislative Assembly each even-numbered year. Describes manner of report. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Poor record of attendance by Oregon students; absenteeism as chronic problem in Oregon schools, especially secondary schools
- Absenteeism as indicator for potential student dropout
- Relevance of “9th Grade On Track” data, examining credit completion and attendance per student
- Absenteeism and increased dropout rates as disproportionately affecting low income and traditionally underserved student populations
- Potential amendments to require school districts to report progress to ODE

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The ODE defines a dropout as “a student who withdrew from school and did not graduate or transfer to another school that leads to graduation.” Dropout data is collected in the Annual Cumulative Average Daily Membership (ADM) Data Collection at the end of each school year, which identifies students' enrollment dates and status as of the last day of enrollment for the year.

The graduation rate for students in Oregon public schools has been a topic of public debate recently. In April, 2014, the Office of the Secretary of State issued an audit report titled, “Oregon Department of Education: Efforts to Close Achievement Gaps.” That report indicates that, “Oregon has struggled with student achievement and graduation rates,” reporting that one study, “ranked [Oregon] 40th in student achievement compared to other states.” In January and February of 2015, multiple news outlets reported that Oregon posted “the nation’s worst” or “second-worst” graduation rate for class of 2013.

House Bill 3319-A requires school districts to report to ODE on strategies and activities used to increase high school graduation rates or reduce chronic absenteeism, and further requires ODE to report to the Legislative Assembly each even-numbered year.