

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 3499 - B**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Education to convene advisory group related to budgets and spending for English language learner programs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The bill creates the Statewide English Language Learner (ELL) Program Account for statewide activities related to English language learner programs and the account is funded by a \$12.5 million distribution or "carve-out" from the State School Fund each biennium. The State School Fund appropriation bill (HB 5017) includes the language for this distribution or "carve-out" for the 2015-17 biennium only which is repealed by the A-4 amendment. . This bill establishes a permanent distribution for the ELL program.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is directed to convene an advisory group and adopt rules related to developing uniform budget coding requirements and uniform reporting requirements to provide budget transparency for the spending of moneys received by school districts as provided by ORS 327.013. ODE is also directed to convene a work group related to the English Language Learner Program and each school district is directed to file an annual report, by September 1 of each year, related to the expenditures of the program as well as student progress information. Prior to January 1 of each odd-numbered year ODE is directed to submit to the interim Legislative Committees on Education a report on the data collected from the school districts for the preceding two school years.

To implement provisions of the bill ODE will need two (2.00 FTE) Education Program Specialist 2 positions to support research and implementation of the statewide ELL plan as well as help develop the district reports and support the targeted school districts with high concentrations of ELL's. These positions are estimated to cost \$498,334 per biennium including services and supply costs such as travel, office expenses, dues & subscriptions, as well as publicity & publications.

The remainder of the \$12.5 million is anticipated to be expended on costs such as recruitment, training, and legal costs associated with contracting school improvement coaches as well as up to \$60,000/year/school annual grants for the ELL Program. A school improvement coach at each school site for 8-10 hours per week is estimated to cost roughly \$80,000/year/school. The exact number of school districts that will be served by the ELL Program is not known but is anticipated to be between 30 to 35 schools.