

# House Bill 2766

Sponsored by Representative PARRISH; Representative REARDON (at the request of Building Excellent Schools Together) (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that language-based computer coding may satisfy any world language requirements in public schools and second language requirements in community colleges and post-secondary institutions of education.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to language-based computer coding; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329.007,  
3 341.463 and 351.117; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329.007 is amended to read:

6 329.007. As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

7 (1) "Academic content standards" means expectations of student knowledge and skills adopted  
8 by the State Board of Education under ORS 329.045.

9 (2) "Administrator" includes all persons whose duties require an administrative license.

10 [(3) "*Board*" or "*state board*" means the State Board of Education.]

11 [(4)] (3) "Community learning center" means a school-based or school-linked program providing  
12 informal meeting places and coordination for community activities, adult education, child care, in-  
13 formation and referral and other services as described in ORS 329.157. "Community learning  
14 center" includes, but is not limited to, a community school program as defined in ORS 336.505,  
15 family resource centers as described in ORS 417.725, full service schools, lighted schools and 21st  
16 century community learning centers.

17 [(5) "*Department*" means the Department of Education.]

18 [(6)] (4) "English" includes, but is not limited to, reading and writing.

19 [(7)] (5) "History, geography, economics and civics" includes, but is not limited to, Oregon  
20 Studies.

21 (6) "**Language-based computer coding**" means the formal language for computer coding  
22 that consists of a set vocabulary and syntax and that is designed to instruct a computer to  
23 perform a specific task.

24 [(8)] (7) "Oregon Studies" means history, geography, economics and civics specific to the State  
25 of Oregon. Oregon Studies instruction in Oregon government shall include municipal, county, tribal  
26 and state government, as well as the electoral and legislative processes.

27 [(9)] (8) "Parents" means parents or guardians of students who are covered by this chapter.

28 [(10)] (9) "Public charter school" has the meaning given that term in ORS 338.005.

29 [(11)] (10) "School district" means a school district as defined in ORS 332.002, a state-operated  
30 school or any legally constituted combination of such entities.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 [(12)] (11) “Teacher” means any licensed employee of a school district who has direct responsi-  
 2 bility for instruction, coordination of educational programs or supervision of students and who is  
 3 compensated for such services from public funds. “Teacher” does not include a school nurse, as  
 4 defined in ORS 342.455, or a person whose duties require an administrative license.

5 [(13)] (12) “The arts” includes, but is not limited to, literary arts, performing arts and visual  
 6 arts.

7 [(14)] (13) “World languages” means American Sign Language, **language-based computer cod-**  
 8 **ing** and languages other than English.

9 [(15)] (14) “21st Century Schools Council” means a council established pursuant to ORS 329.704.

10 **SECTION 2. Section 3 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.**

11 **SECTION 3. A school district board or a public charter school governing body may offer**  
 12 **to students courses in language-based computer coding. Courses that meet standards estab-**  
 13 **lished by the State Board of Education by rule shall satisfy any requirements for world lan-**  
 14 **guages.**

15 **SECTION 4.** ORS 341.463 is amended to read:

16 341.463. (1) If a board of education of a community college determines that enrollment is suffi-  
 17 cient to make an American Sign Language class economically viable and if qualified instructors are  
 18 available, the board may offer to students courses for credit in American Sign Language. Such  
 19 courses shall satisfy any second language elective requirement.

20 **(2) If a board offers any courses used to teach students the formal language for computer**  
 21 **coding that consists of a set vocabulary and syntax and that is designed to instruct a com-**  
 22 **puter to perform a specific task, the courses shall satisfy any second language elective re-**  
 23 **quirement.**

24 **SECTION 5.** ORS 351.117 is amended to read:

25 351.117. [(1)] (1)(a) If the State Board of Higher Education determines that enrollment is suffi-  
 26 cient to make an American Sign Language class economically viable and if qualified instructors are  
 27 available, the board may offer to students courses for credit in American Sign Language at a public  
 28 university. Such courses shall satisfy any second language elective requirement.

29 [(2)] (b) The State Board of Higher Education is encouraged to continue to:

30 [(a)] (A) Coordinate with the State Board of Education to develop curricula for American Sign  
 31 Language courses;

32 [(b)] (B) Implement programs to locate and prepare qualified teachers and interpreters of  
 33 American Sign Language; and

34 [(c)] (C) Assist public universities in identifying local and regional needs and resources available  
 35 for American Sign Language courses.

36 **(2) If the board offers any courses used to teach students the formal language for com-**  
 37 **puter coding that consists of a set vocabulary and syntax and that is designed to instruct a**  
 38 **computer to perform a specific task, the courses shall satisfy any second language elective**  
 39 **requirement.**

40 **SECTION 6. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
 41 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**  
 42 **on its passage.**