

# Senate Bill 321

Sponsored by Senator HASS, Representative READ; Senators BATES, ROBLAN (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**.

Decreases compulsory school age from seven to five years of age.  
Takes effect July 1, 2016.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to compulsory school attendance; amending ORS 339.010, 339.020, 339.030 and 339.115; and  
2 prescribing an effective date.  
3

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 339.010 is amended to read:

6 339.010. (1) Except as provided in ORS 339.030[:],

7 *[(1)]* all children between the ages of [7] **5** and 18 years who have not completed the 12th grade  
8 are required to attend regularly a public full-time school during the entire school term.

9 *[(2) All children five or six years of age who have been enrolled in a public school are required*  
10 *to attend regularly the public school while enrolled in the public school.]*

11 **(2) For the purpose of this section, a child is considered to be five years of age if the fifth**  
12 **birthday of the child occurred on or before September 1 immediately preceding the beginning**  
13 **of the current school term.**

14 **SECTION 2.** ORS 339.020 is amended to read:

15 339.020. (1) Except as provided in ORS 339.030[:],

16 *[(1)]* every person having control of a child between the ages of [7] **5** and 18 years who has not  
17 completed the 12th grade is required to send the child to, and maintain the child in, regular at-  
18 tendance at a public full-time school during the entire school term.

19 *[(2) If a person has control of a child five or six years of age and has enrolled the child in a public*  
20 *school, the person is required to send the child to, and maintain the child in, regular attendance at the*  
21 *public school while the child is enrolled in the public school.]*

22 **(2) For the purpose of this section, a child is considered to be five years of age if the fifth**  
23 **birthday of the child occurred on or before September 1 immediately preceding the beginning**  
24 **of the current school term.**

25 **SECTION 3.** ORS 339.030 is amended to read:

26 339.030. (1) In the following cases, children may not be required to attend public full-time  
27 schools:

28 (a) Children being taught in a private or parochial school in the courses of study usually taught  
29 in *[grades 1 through 12]* **kindergarten through grade 12** in the public schools and in attendance  
30 for a period equivalent to that required of children attending public schools in the 1994-1995 school  
31 year.

**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 (b) Children proving to the satisfaction of the district school board that they have acquired  
 2 equivalent knowledge to that acquired in the courses of study taught in [*grades 1 through 12*]  
 3 **kindergarten through grade 12** in the public schools.

4 (c) Children who have received a high school diploma.

5 (d) Children being taught for a period equivalent to that required of children attending public  
 6 schools by a private teacher the courses of study usually taught in [*grades 1 through 12*]  
 7 **kindergarten through grade 12** in the public school.

8 (e) Children being educated in the children's home by a parent or legal guardian.

9 (f) Children excluded from attendance as provided by law.

10 (2) The State Board of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission by rule  
 11 shall establish procedures whereby, on a semiannual basis, an exemption from compulsory attend-  
 12 ance may be granted to the parent or legal guardian of any child 16 or 17 years of age who is  
 13 lawfully employed full-time[,] **or who is** lawfully employed part-time and enrolled in school, a com-  
 14 munity college or an alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615. An exemption also  
 15 may be granted to any child who is an emancipated minor or who has initiated the procedure for  
 16 emancipation under ORS 419B.550 to 419B.558.

17 **SECTION 4.** ORS 339.115 is amended to read:

18 339.115. (1) Except as provided in ORS 339.141, authorizing tuition for courses not part of the  
 19 regular school program, the district school board shall admit free of charge to the schools of the  
 20 district all persons between the ages of 5 and 19 who reside within the school district. A person  
 21 whose 19th birthday occurs during the school year shall continue to be eligible for a free and ap-  
 22 propriate public education for the remainder of the school year. A district school board may admit  
 23 nonresident persons, determine who is not a resident of the district and fix rates of tuition for  
 24 nonresidents.

25 (2)(a) A district must admit an otherwise eligible person who has not yet attained 21 years of  
 26 age prior to the beginning of the current school year if the person is:

27 (A) Receiving special education and has not yet received a high school diploma as described in  
 28 ORS 329.451 (2); or

29 (B) Receiving special education and has received a modified diploma, an extended diploma or  
 30 an alternative certificate as described in ORS 329.451.

31 (b) A district may admit an otherwise eligible person who is not receiving special education and  
 32 who has not yet attained 21 years of age prior to the beginning of the current school year if the  
 33 person is shown to be in need of additional education in order to receive a high school diploma.

34 (3) The obligation to make a free appropriate public education available to individuals with  
 35 disabilities 18 through 21 years of age who are incarcerated in an adult correctional facility applies  
 36 only to those individuals who, in their last educational placement prior to their incarceration in the  
 37 adult correctional facility:

38 (a) Were identified as being a child with a disability as defined in ORS 343.035; or

39 (b) Had an individualized education program as described in ORS 343.151.

40 (4) For purposes of subsection (3) of this section, "adult correctional facility" means:

41 (a) A local correctional facility as defined in ORS 169.005;

42 (b) A regional correctional facility as defined in ORS 169.620; or

43 (c) A Department of Corrections institution as defined in ORS 421.005.

44 (5) An otherwise eligible person under subsection (2) of this section whose 21st birthday occurs  
 45 during the school year shall continue to be eligible for a free appropriate public education for the

1 remainder of the school year.

2 (6) The person may apply to the board of directors of the school district of residence for ad-  
 3 mission after the 19th birthday as provided in subsection (1) of this section. A person aggrieved by  
 4 a decision of the local board may appeal to the State Board of Education. The decision of the state  
 5 board is final and not subject to appeal.

6 (7) Notwithstanding ORS 339.133 (1)(a), a school district shall not exclude from admission a child  
 7 located in the district solely because the child does not have a fixed place of residence or solely  
 8 because the child is not under the supervision of a parent, guardian or person in a parental re-  
 9 lationship.

10 (8) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a school district:

11 (a) May for the remaining period of an expulsion deny admission to the regular school to a  
 12 resident student who is expelled from another school district; and

13 (b) Shall for at least one calendar year from the date of the expulsion and if the expulsion is for  
 14 more than one calendar year, may for the remaining period of time deny admission to the regular  
 15 school program to a student who is under expulsion from another school district for an offense that  
 16 constitutes a violation of a school district policy adopted pursuant to ORS 339.250 (7).

17 (9) *[A child entering the first grade during the fall term shall be considered to be six years of age*  
 18 *if the sixth birthday of the child occurs on or before September 1.]* A child entering kindergarten  
 19 during the fall term shall be considered to be five years of age if the fifth birthday of the child oc-  
 20 curs on or before September 1. *[However,]* Nothing in this section prevents a district school board  
 21 from admitting free of charge a child whose needs for cognitive, social and physical development  
 22 would best be met in the school program, as defined by policies of the district school board, to enter  
 23 school even though the child has not attained the minimum age requirement but is a resident of the  
 24 district.

25 **SECTION 5. This 2015 Act takes effect on July 1, 2016.**