

**B-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 439**

Ordered by the Senate June 26  
Including Senate Amendments dated April 1 and June 26

Sponsored by Senator ROBLAN, Representative SPRENGER, Senator THOMSEN, Representative KOMP (at the request of Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition) (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.

Directs Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs.

*[Establishes Outdoor Education Account for purpose of providing outdoor school programs.]*  
*[Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for deposit in account.]*

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to funding for outdoor school; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall assist school dis-**  
6 **tricts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs. The Oregon**  
7 **State University Extension Service shall provide assistance by administering a grant pro-**  
8 **gram, providing program leadership and providing program maintenance.**

9 **(2) Grants shall be awarded for outdoor school programs that:**

10 **(a) Provide a six-day, residential, hands-on educational experience, or an equivalent out-**  
11 **door educational experience that reflects local community needs and contexts, featuring field**  
12 **study opportunities for students learning about:**

13 **(A) Soil, water, plants and animals;**

14 **(B) The role of timber, agriculture and other natural resources in the economy of this**  
15 **state;**

16 **(C) The interrelationship of nature, natural resources, economic development and career**  
17 **opportunities in this state; and**

18 **(D) The importance of this state's environment and natural resources.**

19 **(b) Are integrated with local school curricula in a manner that assists students in**  
20 **meeting state standards related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and**  
21 **international standards related to science.**

22 **(c) Provide students with opportunities to develop leadership, critical thinking and**  
23 **decision-making skills.**

24 **(d) Address the inequity of outdoor educational opportunities for underserved children in**  
25 **this state.**

**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 (e) Provide students with opportunities to learn about the interdependence of urban and  
2 rural areas.

3 (3) Grants shall be awarded to a school district or to an education service district.

4 (4) Priority for grants shall be given to outdoor school programs that promote:

5 (a) Higher scores on standardized measures of academic achievement in reading, writing,  
6 math, science and social studies.

7 (b) Greater self-sufficiency and leadership skills.

8 (c) Fewer discipline and classroom management problems.

9 (d) Increased student engagement and pride in accomplishments.

10 (e) Greater proficiency in solving problems and thinking strategically.

11 (f) Better application of systems thinking and increased ability to think creatively.

12 (g) Improved communication skills and enhanced ability to work in group settings.

13 (h) Greater enthusiasm for language arts, math, science and social studies.

14 (i) Increased knowledge and understanding of science content, concepts and processes.

15 (j) Better ability to apply science and civic processes to real-world situations.

16 (k) Improved understanding of mathematical concepts and mastery of math skills.

17 (L) Improved language arts skills.

18 (m) Better comprehension of social studies content.

19 (n) Accessibility to students of all abilities and learning styles.

20 (5)(a) The Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service shall convene an  
21 advisory committee for the purpose of administering the grant program established under  
22 this section. When selecting the members of the committee, the director shall take into  
23 consideration geographic and demographic diversity and shall ensure that the committee has  
24 representatives of the environmental community, the natural resources community and  
25 fifth-grade or sixth-grade education.

26 (b) The advisory committee shall recommend to the director:

27 (A) Standards for outdoor school programs; and

28 (B) Distributions of moneys for outdoor school programs.

29 (6) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall provide program leadership of  
30 outdoor school programs, including:

31 (a) Providing program management and administration, including:

32 (A) Developing and reviewing outdoor school program curricula;

33 (B) Designing outdoor school program lessons that are available on websites and mobile  
34 devices;

35 (C) Developing outdoor school program learning modules and materials;

36 (D) Implementing the outdoor school program;

37 (E) Developing best practices for providing outdoor school programs; and

38 (F) Providing staff training related to outdoor school programs;

39 (b) Convening an advisory committee to assist with management activities;

40 (c) Distributing grants and entering into contracts and other agreements related to fi-  
41 nancing;

42 (d) Providing procurement services;

43 (e) Complying with reporting requirements; and

44 (f) Ensuring compliance with program requirements.

45 (7) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall provide program maintenance,

1 **including:**

- 2 (a) **Conducting program reviews and implementing program revisions;**
- 3 (b) **Making quality assessments and monitoring the program for quality;**
- 4 (c) **Evaluating outputs and impacts of outdoor school programs;**
- 5 (d) **Engaging in camp development, including the selection, management and coordination**
- 6 **of camps; and**
- 7 (e) **Conducting risk management.**

8 (8) **Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing on the Oregon State University**  
9 **Extension Service any duties or obligations unless funding is provided to the service for ex-**  
10 **penses incurred by the service for the purposes of this section.**

11 (9) **The director shall submit an annual report to:**

12 (a) **The Department of Education, related to the ability of outdoor school programs to**  
13 **assist students in meeting state standards related to science, technology, engineering and**  
14 **mathematics, and international standards related to science; and**

15 (b) **The interim legislative committees on education, related to grant programs.**

16 **SECTION 3. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
17 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**  
18 **July 1, 2015.**

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