

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2956

Ordered by the House April 10
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Representatives WHISNANT, LIVELY, PILUSO, HACK

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 Early Learning Council to conduct evaluation of Early Learning Hubs and submit report on evaluation each odd-numbered year. Requires additional [*evaluation and*] report in 2018.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to evaluations of Early Learning Hubs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 417.827 and
3 section 2, chapter 773, Oregon Laws 2015; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 2, chapter 773, Oregon Laws 2015, is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 2.** (1) **Each biennium**, the Early Learning Council shall conduct an evaluation of Early
7 Learning Hubs that assesses the efficacy of the Early Learning Hubs with respect to:

8 (a) Creating an aligned, coordinated and family-centered system of early learning services;

9 (b) Increasing coordination and collaboration among entities involved in, and providers of ser-
10 vices related to, early learning services, education and health and human services;

11 (c) Increasing focus on outcomes; and

12 (d) Improving outcomes, including but not limited to outcomes associated with school readiness,
13 for populations defined by statute or rule as being at-risk.

14 (2) [*The*] **An** evaluation performed under subsection (1) of this section must also assess, with
15 respect to Early Learning Hubs:

16 (a) Governance structure;

17 (b) Funding mechanisms and metrics for providing funding; and

18 (c) Compilation and use of data.

19 (3) The council may contract with a third party to perform [*the*] **an** evaluation required by this
20 section.

21 (4) No later than [*February 1, 2019*] **March 15 of each odd-numbered year**, the council shall
22 submit a report to the interim legislative committees on education and early learning regarding the
23 findings and recommendations made as a result of [*the*] **an** evaluation performed under this section.
24 The report shall include **any** recommendations for legislative changes based upon the findings and
25 recommendations made as a result of the evaluation.

26 **SECTION 2.** **The Early Learning Council shall submit a report to the interim legislative**
27 **committees on education and early learning no later than March 15, 2018. The report shall**
28 **provide a summary of the progress made by the council in conducting the evaluation de-**

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 **scribed in section 2, chapter 773, Oregon Laws 2015.**

2 **SECTION 3.** ORS 417.827 is amended to read:

3 417.827. (1) As used in this section and section 2, chapter 773, Oregon Laws 2015:

4 (a) "Early Learning Hub" means any entity designated by regional partners to coordinate early
5 learning services, as determined by rules adopted by the Early Learning Council.

6 (b) "Regional partners" includes counties, cities, school districts, education service districts,
7 community colleges, public universities, private educational institutions, faith-based organizations,
8 nonprofit service providers and tribes.

9 (2) The council shall implement and oversee a system that coordinates the delivery of early
10 learning services to the communities of this state through the direction of Early Learning Hubs. The
11 system may not include more than 16 Early Learning Hubs.

12 (3) The system implemented and overseen by the council must ensure that:

13 (a) Providers of early learning services are accountable for outcomes;

14 (b) Services are provided in a cost-efficient manner; and

15 (c) The services provided, and the means by which those services are provided, are focused on
16 the outcomes of the services.

17 (4) The council shall develop and implement a process for requesting proposals from entities to
18 become Early Learning Hubs. Proposals submitted under this subsection must comply with criteria
19 and requirements adopted by the council by rule, including:

20 (a) The entity will be able to coordinate the provision of early learning services to the commu-
21 nity that will be served by the entity. An entity may meet the requirement of this paragraph by
22 submitting evidence that local stakeholders, including but not limited to service providers, parents,
23 community members, county governments, local governments and school districts, have participated
24 in the development of the proposal and will maintain a meaningful role in the Early Learning Hub.

25 (b) The services coordinated by the entity will be in alignment with the services provided by the
26 public schools of the community that will be served by the entity.

27 (c) The entity will be in alignment with, and make advantageous use of, the system of public
28 health care and services available through local health departments and other publicly supported
29 programs delivered through, or in partnership with, counties and coordinated care organizations.

30 (d) The entity will be able to integrate efforts among education providers, providers of health
31 care, providers of human services and providers of other programs and services in the community.

32 (e) The entity will use coordinated and transparent budgeting.

33 (f) The entity will operate in a fiscally sound manner.

34 (g) The entity must have a governing body or community advisory body that:

35 (A) Has the authority to initiate audits, recommend the terms of a contract and provide reports
36 to the public and to the council on the outcomes of the provision of early learning services to the
37 community served by the entity.

38 (B) Has members selected through a transparent process and includes both public and private
39 entities, locally based parents and service recipients, human social service providers, child care
40 providers, health care providers and representatives of local governments from the service area.

41 (h) The entity will collaborate on documentation related to coordinated services with public and
42 private entities that are identified by the council as providers of services that advance the early
43 learning of children.

44 (i) The entity will serve a community that is based on the population and service needs of the
45 community and will demonstrate the ability to improve results for at-risk children, including the

1 ability to identify, evaluate and implement coordinated strategies to ensure that a child is ready to
2 succeed in school.

3 (j) The entity will be able to raise and leverage significant funds from public and private sources
4 and to secure in-kind support to support early learning services coordinated by the entity and op-
5 erate in a fiscally sound manner.

6 (k) The entity meets any other qualifications established by the council.

7 (5) The council may adopt by rule requirements that are in addition to the requirements de-
8 scribed in subsections (3) and (4) of this section that an entity must meet to qualify as an Early
9 Learning Hub. When developing the additional requirements, the council must use a statewide public
10 process of community engagement that is consistent with the requirements of the federal Head Start
11 Act.

12 (6) When determining whether to designate an entity as an Early Learning Hub, the council
13 shall balance the following factors:

14 (a) The entity's ability to engage the community and be involved in the community.

15 (b) The entity's ability to produce outcomes that benefit children.

16 (c) The entity's resourcefulness.

17 (d) The entity's use, or proposed use, of evidence-based practices.

18 (7) The council shall develop metrics for the purpose of providing funding to Early Learning
19 Hubs designated under this section. The metrics must:

20 (a) Focus on community readiness, high capacity development and progress toward tracking
21 child outcomes;

22 (b) Establish a baseline of information for the area to be served by the Early Learning Hub,
23 including information about the inclusion of community partners in the governance structure of the
24 Early Learning Hub, the availability of data on local programs and outcomes and the success in
25 leveraging private, nonprofit and other governmental resources for early learning; and

26 (c) Include child performance metrics.

27 (8) The council may require that, as a condition of receiving funding as a designated Early
28 Learning Hub under this section, the Early Learning Hub provide matching funding. The percentage
29 of matching funding shall be determined by the council and may vary for each fiscal year. Any
30 moneys received by an Early Learning Hub are subject to the restrictions of this section.

31 (9) For any community in this state that is not served by an Early Learning Hub, the council
32 shall oversee and administer the delivery of early learning services for that community and, to the
33 extent practicable, shall regionalize service administration.

34 (10) The council may alter the lines of the territory served by an Early Learning Hub only to
35 ensure that all children of this state are served by an Early Learning Hub.

36 (11) An entity designated as part of an Early Learning Hub may not use more than 15 percent
37 of the moneys received by the entity from the council to pay administrative costs of the entity.

38 (12) The Department of Human Services or the Oregon Health Authority may not transfer any
39 authority for determining eligibility for a state or federal program to an Early Learning Hub.

40 *[(13) The council shall report annually on or before September 15 to the interim committees of the*
41 *Legislative Assembly with subject matter jurisdiction of education and early learning regarding the*
42 *implementation and status of Early Learning Hubs under this section.]*

43 **SECTION 4. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
44 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect**
45 **on its passage.**

