

SB 719 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 3/4, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to evaluate the impact of abbreviated school day programs on behavioral issues of students with an individualized education program (IEP). Establishes requirements for the evaluations. Directs ODE to administer a pilot program based on evaluations. Establishes pilot program requirements. Directs ODE to develop recommendations to improve abbreviated school day programs. Requires ODE to consult with stakeholders on evaluations, pilot programs, and recommendations. Requires ODE to report results to the legislature no later than September 15, 2020. Sunsets provisions on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The effect of limiting instructional time on learning outcomes
- Need to implement best practices for abbreviated school days
- Ongoing stakeholder meetings on abbreviated school days
- The 2017 legislation on abbreviated school days
- Fiscal impact of implementing provisions
- Support at the state level for special education, especially for small and rural districts
- The use of the dyslexia legislation as a model

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and provide a system of supports and technical assistance for school districts related to abbreviated school day programs for students with an individualized education program. Establishes system requirements. Directs ODE to provide specialists to support districts, as specified. Directs ODE to establish an advisory committee. Establishes committee requirements. Requires ODE to report to interim education committees of the Legislative Assembly no later September 15, 2020. Appropriates \$1.2 million from the General Fund for the purposes of the act. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2017-2018 school year, Oregon school districts provided 78,867 students with special education services through an individualized education program (IEP), representing 13.6% of the total student population.

Oregon statute defines an abbreviated school day as any school day during which a student receives instruction or educational services for fewer hours than other students who are in the same grade within same school. It defines an abbreviated school day program as an educational program that restricts a student's access to instructional hours or educational services and that results in a student having an abbreviated school day for more than ten school days per year. Under Oregon law, school districts must meet specific requirements prior to placing a student in an abbreviated school day program. On January 22, 2019, the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. filed a class action lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Education and the Governor of Oregon related to Oregon children with disabilities and the opportunity to attend a full day of school.

PRELIMINARY