SB 496 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date:	04/08/19
Action:	Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote:	4-0-1-0
Yeas:	4 - Gelser, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner
Exc:	1 - Hass
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	2/11, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to provide special education students, alternative education students, or English language learners with the same access to specialized or common areas as traditional students. Provides exception for behavioral issues or compliance with an order from a court or law enforcement agency. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to quality facilities for all students
- Substandard facilities
- Unequal access to lunch rooms, gyms, and playground spaces
- Special education students, English language learners, and alternative education students
- Portable classrooms
- School district policies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law defines special education as specially designed instruction that is provided at no cost to parents to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities. According to the 2017-2018 Statewide Report Card, 78,867 students, representing 13.6 percent of the student population, received special education services. Oregon law defines alternative education programs as a school or separate class group designed to best serve students' educational needs and interests and to assist students in achieving the academic standards of the school district and state. According to the 2017-2018 Statewide Report Card, school districts served approximately 13,300 students in alternative programs. Oregon law defines an English language learner as a student who has limited English language proficiency because English is not the native language of the student or the student comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the student's level of English language proficiency. According to data from the ESEA Title III: English Learner Collection for 2017-2018, Oregon public schools served 54,408 English language learners, representing about 9.4 percent of the total student population. Senate Bill 496 A requires school districts to provide the same access to common school areas to all students.