

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 9: Department of Education Procurement Services**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Education Subcommittee  
Carrier: Representative McLain

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The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$1,416,158 General Fund and authorizing the establishment of eleven permanent full-time positions (6.36 FTE) for the Department of Education in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2022 legislative session, to address increased workload in the Procurement Services unit and Fiscal Grants team.

The Oregon Department of Education issues over 10,000 grant agreements per biennium with a current procurement staff of ten budgeted positions. To manage its workload and accommodate large new grant programs added recently by the Legislature and Congress, the Department has relied on recent retirees from its own procurement team and other state agency procurement teams to fill in on a temporary, limited duration basis.

To address workload needs in a more sustainable way, the Department proposes to add ten procurement and one accounting professional. Junior level positions would be added and hired first, with senior-level positions added and hired later in the biennium. Because state agencies have recently experienced difficulties in recruiting senior procurement professionals, there is an advantage to training junior-level staff for more advanced roles and promoting from within, which is the agency's plan. Fully implemented, this proposal will increase the Department's procurement team by \$2,620,604 General Fund and eleven positions (11.50 FTE) in the 2023-25 biennium.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.