

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Requires school districts to establish educational equity advisory committee. Prescribes duties and membership of committees.
Takes effect July 1, 2022.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to educational equity advisory committees; creating new provisions;
3 amending ORS 328.542 and 329.095; and prescribing an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2021 Act is added to and made a part**
6 **of ORS chapter 329.**

7 **SECTION 2. (1) Nothing in this section shall interfere with the du-**
8 **ties, responsibilities and rights of duly elected school district boards.**
9 **There shall be established at each school district an educational equity**
10 **advisory committee.**

11 **(2) The duties of an educational equity advisory committee shall**
12 **include:**

13 **(a) Advise the school district board about the educational equity**
14 **impacts of policy decisions;**

15 **(b) Advise the school district superintendent about the educational**
16 **equity impacts of policy decisions;**

17 **(c) Inform the school district board and school district superinten-**
18 **dent when a situation arises in a school of the school district that**
19 **negatively impacts underrepresented students and advise the board**
20 **and superintendent on how best to handle that situation;**

1 (d) Participate in the creation and revision of the school district's
2 continuous improvement plan under ORS 329.095;

3 (e) Participate in the creation and approval of the district budget
4 under ORS 328.452; and

5 (f) Prepare an annual report that:

6 (A) Contains the following information:

7 (i) The successes and challenges the school district has experienced
8 in meeting the educational equity needs of students in the school dis-
9 trict;

10 (ii) Recommendations the committee made to the school district
11 board and school district superintendent, and the actions that were
12 taken in response to those recommendations; and

13 (iii) Any other information required by the State Board of Educa-
14 tion by rule.

15 (B) Is made available by being:

16 (i) Distributed to the parents of the students of the school district;

17 (ii) Posted on the school district's website;

18 (iii) Presented to the school district board in an open meeting with
19 adequate opportunity for public comment; and

20 (iv) Sent to the State Board of Education.

21 (3)(a) An educational equity advisory committee shall be selected
22 by the school district superintendent and must be composed of par-
23 ents, teachers, students and community members from the school
24 district.

25 (b) For the purpose of selecting members, the school district su-
26 perintendent:

27 (A) Shall solicit names of possible members from the community;

28 (B) Must ensure that membership represents the diversity of the
29 student population for the school district;

30 (C) May not exclude members based on immigration status; and

31 (D) Must comply with any other requirements established by the

1 **State Board of Education by rule.**

2 **(4) All educational advisory equity committee meetings shall be**
3 **subject to the open meetings law pursuant to ORS 192.610 to 192.690.**

4 **(5) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules necessary**
5 **for the administration of this section.**

6 **SECTION 3. (1) A school district must first convene an educational**
7 **equity advisory committee no later than September 15, 2022.**

8 **(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a school dis-**
9 **trict has an average daily membership of 10,000 or less, the school**
10 **district is not required to first convene an educational equity advisory**
11 **committee until September 15, 2025.**

12 **SECTION 4. ORS 329.095 is amended to read:**

13 329.095. (1)(a) The Department of Education shall require school districts
14 and schools to conduct self-evaluations and to periodically update their local
15 district continuous improvement plans. Except as provided by paragraph
16 (b)(C) of this subsection, the department may not require school districts or
17 schools to conduct self-evaluations or to update their local district contin-
18 uous improvement plans more frequently than biennially.

19 (b) The department may require a school district to:

20 (A) File, periodically, or at the department's request, its local district
21 continuous improvement plan with the department;

22 (B) Notify the department of any substantial changes, as defined by rule
23 of the State Board of Education, to the school district; or

24 (C) Update its local district continuous improvement plan when there has
25 been a substantial change, as defined by rule of the board, to the school
26 district.

27 (c) The self-evaluation process conducted as provided by this subsection
28 shall involve the public in the setting of local goals. The school districts
29 shall ensure that representatives from the demographic groups of their
30 school population are invited to participate in the development of local dis-
31 trict continuous improvement plans to achieve the goals.

1 (2) As part of setting local goals, school districts shall undertake a com-
2 munications process that involves parents, students, teachers, school em-
3 ployees, **the educational equity advisory committee** and community
4 representatives to explain and discuss the local goals and their relationship
5 to programs under this chapter.

6 (3) At the request of the school district, department staff shall provide
7 ongoing technical assistance in the development and implementation of the
8 local district continuous improvement plan.

9 (4) The local district continuous improvement plan shall include:

10 (a) Goals to implement the following:

11 (A) A rigorous curriculum aligned with state standards;

12 (B) High-quality instructional programs;

13 (C) Short-term and long-term professional development plans;

14 (D) Programs and policies that achieve a safe educational environment;

15 (E) A plan for family and community engagement;

16 (F) Staff leadership development;

17 (G) High-quality data systems;

18 (H) Improvement planning that is data-driven;

19 (I) Education service plans for students who have or have not exceeded
20 all of the academic content standards; and

21 (J) A strong school library program;

22 (b) A review of demographics, student performance, staff characteristics
23 and student access to, and use of, educational opportunities;

24 (c) A description of district efforts to achieve local efficiencies and efforts
25 to make better use of resources; and

26 (d) A needs assessment, which shall:

27 (A) Be conducted in a manner that is inclusive of school employees, stu-
28 dents from student groups identified in ORS 327.180 (2)(b) and parents of
29 those students.

30 (B) Address the following priorities:

31 (i) Reducing academic disparities for students from student groups iden-

1 tified in ORS 327.180 (2)(b);

2 (ii) Meeting students' mental or behavioral health needs;

3 (iii) Providing equitable access to academic courses across the school
4 district or public charter school, with specific emphasis on access by stu-
5 dents from student groups identified in ORS 327.180 (2)(b);

6 (iv) Allowing teachers and staff to have sufficient time to:

7 (I) Collaborate with other teachers and staff;

8 (II) Review data on students' grades, absences and discipline, based on
9 school and on grade level or course; and

10 (III) Develop strategies to ensure that at-risk students stay on track to
11 graduate; and

12 (v) Possible partnerships with other organizations, federally recognized
13 Indian tribes, school districts, education service districts, regional achieve-
14 ment collaboratives, post-secondary institutions of education, education
15 partners or nonprofit programs and community-based programs that have
16 demonstrated achievement of positive outcomes in work with students from
17 student groups identified in ORS 327.180 (2)(b).

18 **SECTION 5.** ORS 328.542 is amended to read:

19 328.542. (1) Subject to the Local Budget Law (ORS 294.305 to 294.565) and
20 to sections 11 and 11b, Article XI, Oregon Constitution, each school district
21 board shall prepare annually or biennially the budget of the school district
22 and shall certify ad valorem property taxes to the assessor as provided by
23 law.

24 **(2) In addition to requirements prescribed by ORS 294.305 to 294.565,**
25 **a school district shall consult with the educational equity advisory**
26 **committee of the school district when creating and approving the**
27 **budget.**

28 **SECTION 6.** This 2021 Act takes effect on July 1, 2022.

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