

# Presentation on House Bill 2051

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**Youth Development  
Division**



# YDC/YDD

## Mission, Vision & Values

### VISION

All of Oregon's youth have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their full potential.

### MISSION

YDC/YDD aligns systems and invests in communities to ensure equitable and effective services for youth ages 6 through 24. Throughout Oregon and Tribal Nations, we support educational and career success, disrupt youth crime and violence, and affirm youth strengths and safety.

### VALUES

Equitable access | Equal opportunity | Youth-centered approaches & results  
Inclusion | Innovation



# Youth Development Division

## HB 2051

- Clarifies youth eligibility for Reengagement Programs
- Expands eligible age up from 21 to 24
- Adds partners consulted in rulemaking
- Identifies Federally-Recognized Tribes as potential educational service providers



## Reengagement Background

Reengagement programs are collaborative efforts combining education, workforce development, support services, and one-on-one case management, to serve youth on a non-traditional path to high school graduation or completion.

- The YDD has awarded 32 grants to reengagement programs across Oregon, serving youth ages 14-21.
- Program providers include Community-based organizations, alternative schools, school districts, ESDs, and Community Colleges
- Reengagement Grants are funded by the Statewide Education Initiatives Account of the Student Success Act



## Reengagement Return on Investment

- Each disconnected youth costs state and local governments about \$9,600 annually (Belfield & Levin, 2012).
- This includes lost tax revenue, plus costs associated with crime, healthcare, and public assistance.
- In 2019, there were an estimated 52,904 disconnected youth in Oregon (ages 16-24, not in school or working). Youth disconnection cost Oregon an estimated \$508 million in 2019.

**The goal of reengagement is to reduce high school non-completion, and ultimately, youth disconnection**



## Reasons for HB 2051

### ○ Reaching More Out-of-School Youth

Current statute uses school dropout definition (ORS 339.505) and exemptions for compulsory school attendance (339.030). These definitions are limited, and exclude some key youth we seek to reengage, such as:

- Youth who have been out of school since the previous school year
- Youth who leave school for an extended period due to health or family reason, and need more support to return
- Youth over age 18 who are out of school, have not completed, and may be “exempt from attending public school” but are still eligible to complete high school

### ○ Aligning with Broader Range of Service Providers

Reengagement eligibility was modeled after high school eligibility, but Reengagement is funded through grants, not State School Fund. Eligible program providers include CBOs, Community Colleges, Federally-Recognized Tribes, and more, in addition to schools and districts.

### ○ Aligning with YDD Age Range

YDC/YDD grants and programs serve youth through age 24. This change aligns reengagement with other YDD initiatives



## Solutions in HB 2051

### ○ **Makes More Out-of-School Youth Eligible**

Clarifies and broadens youth eligibility to serve youth who have not received a high school diploma or GED and are:

- Not currently enrolled in school,
- Not on track to graduate on time (defined in rule), or
- Recommended by partner agencies named in the statute or identified in rule

### ○ **Broadens reengagement eligibility age range**

- Permits reengagement programs to serve youth up to age 24
- Aligns with YDD age range

### ○ **Enhances partnership and participation in Reengagement System and policy**

- Names additional partner agencies who may refer youth to reengagement programs
- Federally-recognized Tribes are recognized as a potential educational service provider



## Equity Impact of HB 2051

### Impact of Increasing Access

- Youth from underserved populations and communities are over-represented among high school non-completers
- Encouraging other youth-serving agencies to recommend youth to reengagement programs when appropriate can provide stronger wrap-around supports
- Increasing access to reengagement will create more opportunities for youth to graduate and complete GEDs
- Reengagement programs can improve long-term outcomes for youth by supporting the post-high school transition to employment and higher education





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Division**

Thank You