A-Bill for an Act

Relating to student leadership; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall establish a work group to establish standards for the selection process of members of the Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative established by section 4 of this 2021 Act.

(2) The work group shall consist of members selected by the Department of Education. The work group must consist of:

(a) Representatives from tribal student councils;
(b) Representatives from student leadership organizations;
(c) Students participating in alternative education pathways;
(d) Students from immigrant and refugee communities;
(e) Students who serve on Department of Education work groups;
(f) Students who serve on Youth Development Division work groups related to educational opportunities;
(g) Representatives from culturally specific, community-based organizations;
(h) Administrators, teachers and other school staff who support student leadership in public schools; and
(i) Additional members identified and recommended by the work group, in consultation with the Department of Education.

(3) The work group shall:

(a) Develop a process for individuals to apply to become a member of the collaborative, based on considerations of equity.
(b) Develop and implement a student outreach and recruitment plan for connecting with prospective members of the collaborative.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(e) Review applications of prospective members of the collaborative and recommend to
the Governor prospective members of the collaborative.
(d) Develop the orientation for members of the collaborative.
(e) Work to reduce bias and remove barriers from applying to become a member of the
collaborative and to support members of the collaborative.
(f) Identify mentors for student members of the collaborative.
(SECTION 2. The work group established by section 1 of this 2021 Act must first meet no
later than October 1, 2021.
(SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on April 30, 2022.
(SECTION 4. (1) The Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative is established.
(2)(a) The Governor, in consultation with the Department of Education and the work
group established by section 1 of this 2021 Act, shall appoint members of the collaborative
as provided by this subsection. The term of office of each member is two years, but a mem-
ber serves at the pleasure of the Governor.
(b) The majority of the members of the collaborative must be students between the ages
of 11 and 18 years of age when first appointed. The student members of the collaborative
must include at least two students from each education service district identified in ORS
334.013.
(c) In addition to the student members of the collaborative described in paragraph (b)
of this subsection, the Governor shall:
(A) Consult with the Department of Education to appoint members of the collaborative
who are:
(i) Students and staff representing tribal student councils;
(ii) Students and staff representing student leadership organizations;
(iii) Students and staff representing culturally specific, community-based organizations,
including organizations that assist immigrant and refugee communities;
(iv) Students and staff representing alternative education pathways; and
(v) Administrators, teachers and other school staff who support student leadership in
public schools.
(B) Consult with the Youth Development Division to appoint members of the
collaborative who support the statewide youth reengagement system developed and adminis-
tered by the division under ORS 417.859 or who otherwise provide education opportunities to
youth or support the educational success of youth.
(d) In addition to the members of the collaborative described in paragraphs (b) and (c)
of this subsection, the collaborative may include the following members appointed by the
Governor in consultation with the Department of Education and the work group established
by section 1 of this 2021 Act:
(A) Student members who represent larger regions in this state than the regions identi-
fied in paragraph (b) of this subsection; and
(B) Any other members identified and recommended by the collaborative.
(e) The Governor, in consultation with the Department of Education, may provide for
alternate members for the student members of the collaborative described in paragraph (b)
of this subsection.
(f)(A) When making appointments under this subsection, the Governor must ensure that:
(i) At least 70 percent of the members of the collaborative are from racial or ethnic
communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved;

(ii) At least 50 percent of the student members of the collaborative from each of the regions identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved; and

(iii) The student members of the collaborative must include students who:

(I) Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or another minority gender identity;

(II) Are English language learners; and

(III) Are children with a disability, as defined in ORS 343.035.

(B) For the purpose of this paragraph, racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved include communities for which a plan has been developed and implemented under ORS 329.841, 329.843 and 329.845.

(g) A member of the collaborative is eligible for reappointment for up to two terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

(h) Upon the expiration of a term of office, a person who had been a member of the collaborative may choose to become a mentor for any of the members of the collaborative.

(3)(a) The Department of Education shall ensure that each student member of the collaborative has:

(A) Sufficient support to enable participation in collaborative meetings, which may include accommodations, stipends, travel expenses, appropriate technological access and academic credit; and

(B) Resources available to reimburse any adult who provides transportation or other supports in helping the student member to participate in the collaborative.

(b) Each school or school district enrolled in by a student member of the collaborative shall ensure that the student member has:

(A) Access to counseling support, including mental health support; and

(B) Access to tutoring.

(c) The adult members of the collaborative shall ensure that each student member of the collaborative has:

(A) Access to an adult mentor; and

(B) An opportunity to provide peer support or be a student mentor.

(4) The collaborative, with support from the Department of Education, shall take into consideration racial equity and justice and align with other statewide efforts for racial justice when performing the following duties:

(a) Developing the collaborative’s goals, success criteria and progress measures related to student leadership and engagement in the policymaking process in this state. When performing the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative may modify the collaborative’s decision-making process, scope of work, work plans and meeting structures, and the roles and responsibilities of collaborative members.

(b) Examining current Department of Education and Youth Development Division initiatives and practices related to student leadership and engagement in the policymaking process and making recommendations on how to elevate and support student leadership and student-led accountability in the policymaking process at the state and local level. When performing the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative must give careful con-
sideration to student leadership and engagement by students described in subsection (2)(f)(A)(ii) and (iii) of this section. The collaborative may recommend methods for evaluating current initiatives, practices and progress relating to student leadership and engagement at the state level.

(c) Connecting with student leaders and exploring student leadership networks, including culturally specific, community-based models and Youth Development Division programs, to identify best practices in student-led accountability in this state and on a national level. Based on the performance of the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative shall make recommendations to the Department of Education, the Youth Development Division, the Legislative Assembly and the Governor's office on how to support student leadership networks on a regional level for the purposes of connecting students and student organizations, elevating student leadership and voice and supporting student-led accountability, with special consideration given to students described in subsection (2)(f)(A)(ii) and (iii) of this section.

(d) Helping the Department of Education, the Youth Development Division and the Oregon Health Authority with the surveys that are administered to students assisting with reviews of the findings and making recommendations on the content and administration of the surveys.

(e) Evaluating current processes in this state to identify best practices for students reporting a racist incident or hate crime. Based on the performance of the duty described in this paragraph, the collaborative shall make recommendations for providing support to students who have experienced racist incidents or hate crimes.

(f) Reporting on the collaborative's work, progress and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor's office every two years and providing interim updates to student leadership networks and organizations, education service districts, school districts and local entities that serve students.

(5) The collaborative shall meet at least six times each year in the manner and on the dates determined by a majority of the members of the collaborative. The collaborative shall also meet at other times specified or requested by a majority of the members of the collaborative.

(6) The Department of Education shall:

(a) Provide staff support to the collaborative; and

(b) Support collaborative members in participating in the collaborative.

SECTION 5. The Governor, in consultation with the work group established by section 1 of this 2021 Act, shall appoint the members of the Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative described in section 4 of this 2021 Act no later than April 30, 2022.

SECTION 6. Section 4 of this 2021 Act is amended to read:

Sec. 4. (1) The Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative is established.

(2)(a) The Governor, in consultation with the Department of Education and [the work group established by section 1 of this 2021 Act] current members of the collaborative, shall appoint members of the collaborative as provided by this subsection. The term of office of each member is two years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

(b) The majority of the members of the collaborative must be students between the ages of 11 and 18 years of age when first appointed. The student members of the collaborative must include at least two students from each education service district identified in ORS 334.013.
(c) In addition to the student members of the collaborative described in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the Governor shall:

(A) Consult with the Department of Education to appoint members of the collaborative who are:

(i) Students and staff representing tribal student councils;

(ii) Students and staff representing student leadership organizations;

(iii) Students and staff representing culturally specific, community-based organizations, including organizations that assist immigrant and refugee communities;

(iv) Students and staff representing alternative education pathways; and

(v) Administrators, teachers and other school staff who support student leadership in public schools.

(B) Consult with the Youth Development Division to appoint members of the collaborative who support the statewide youth reengagement system developed and administered by the division under ORS 417.859 or who otherwise provide education opportunities to youth or support the educational success of youth.

(d) In addition to the members of the collaborative described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, the collaborative may include the following members appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Department of Education and [the work group established by section 1 of this 2021 Act] current members of the collaborative:

(A) Student members who represent larger regions in this state than the regions identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection; and

(B) Any other members identified and recommended by the collaborative.

(e) The Governor, in consultation with the Department of Education, may provide for alternate members for the student members of the collaborative described in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(f)(A) When making appointments under this subsection, the Governor must ensure that:

(i) At least 70 percent of the members of the collaborative are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved;

(ii) At least 50 percent of the student members of the collaborative from each of the regions identified in paragraph (b) of this subsection are from racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved; and

(iii) The student members of the collaborative must include students who:

(I) Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or another minority gender identity;

(II) Are English language learners; and

(III) Are children with a disability as defined in ORS 343.035.

(B) For the purpose of this paragraph, racial or ethnic communities that historically have been, or currently are, underrepresented or underserved include communities for which a plan has been developed and implemented under ORS 329.841, 329.843 and 329.845.

(g) A member of the collaborative is eligible for reappointment for up to two terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

(h) Upon the expiration of a term of office, a person who had been a member of the collaborative may choose to become a mentor for any of the members of the collaborative.

(3)(a) The Department of Education shall ensure that each student member of the collaborative has:

(A) Sufficient support to enable participation in collaborative meetings, which may include accommodations, stipends, travel expenses, appropriate technological access and academic credit; and
(B) Resources available to reimburse any adult who provides transportation or other supports in helping the student member to participate in the collaborative.

(b) Each school or school district enrolled in by a student member of the collaborative shall ensure that the student member has:

(A) Access to counseling support, including mental health support; and
(B) Access to tutoring.

c) The adult members of the collaborative shall ensure that each student member of the collaborative has:

(A) Access to an adult mentor; and
(B) An opportunity to provide peer support or be a student mentor.

(4) The collaborative, with support from the Department of Education, shall take into consideration racial equity and justice and align with other statewide efforts for racial justice when performing the following duties:

(a) Developing the collaborative’s goals, success criteria and progress measures related to student leadership and engagement in the policymaking process in this state. When performing the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative may modify the collaborative’s decision-making process, scope of work, work plans and meeting structures and the roles and responsibilities of collaborative members.

(b) Examining current Department of Education and Youth Development Division initiatives and practices related to student leadership and engagement in the policymaking process and making recommendations on how to elevate and support student leadership and student-led accountability in the policymaking process at the state and local level. When performing the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative must give careful consideration to student leadership and engagement by students described in subsection (2)(f)(A)(ii) and (iii) of this section. The collaborative may recommend methods for evaluating current initiatives, practices and progress relating to student leadership and engagement at the state level.

(c) Connecting with student leaders and exploring student leadership networks, including culturally specific, community-based models and Youth Development Division programs, to identify best practices in student-led accountability in this state and on a national level. Based on the performance of the duties described in this paragraph, the collaborative shall make recommendations to the Department of Education, the Youth Development Division, the Legislative Assembly and the Governor’s office on how to support student leadership networks on a regional level for the purposes of connecting students and student organizations, elevating student leadership and voice and supporting student-led accountability, with special consideration given to students described in subsection (2)(f)(A)(ii) and (iii) of this section.

(d) Helping the Department of Education, the Youth Development Division and the Oregon Health Authority with the surveys that are administered to students, assisting with reviews of the findings and making recommendations on the content and administration of the surveys.

(e) Evaluating current processes in this state to identify best practices for students reporting a racist incident or hate crime. Based on the performance of the duty described in this paragraph, the collaborative shall make recommendations for providing support to students who have experienced racist incidents or hate crimes.

(f) Reporting on the collaborative’s work, progress and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor’s office every two years and providing interim updates to student leadership networks and organizations, education service districts, school districts and local entities that
serve students.

(5) The collaborative shall meet at least six times each year in the manner and on the dates determined by a majority of the members of the collaborative. The collaborative shall also meet at other times specified or requested by a majority of the members of the collaborative.

(6) The Department of Education shall:

(a) Provide staff support to the collaborative; and

(b) Support collaborative members in participating in the collaborative.

SECTION 7. The amendments to section 4 of this 2021 Act by section 6 of this 2021 Act become operative on April 30, 2022.

SECTION 8. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of $_______, which shall be expended for the purposes of section 4 of this 2021 Act.

SECTION 9. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect July 1, 2021.