

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 5: Higher Education Coordinating Commission Educator Professional Development Programs

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Frederick

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$6.1 million in the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session for two educator development programs.

The Student Success Act requires education stakeholders in Oregon to increase educator diversity and retention to achieve a pre-K-12 educator workforce that more closely reflects the demographics of students in Oregon’s schools. HECC administers two grant programs that work toward this goal. The first is the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to candidates pursuing an education degree at eligible in-state programs, including students studying to become school speech pathologists, counselors, psychologists, and other behavioral health professionals. The second program provides grants to public universities to recruit and retain future educators.

Funding for the programs is from the Student Success Fund Statewide Education Initiatives Account through an agreement with the Department of Education. The \$6.1 million in Other Funds expenditure limitation will allow HECC to expend the transferred funds to administer the two programs.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.