

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: Tells ODE to take actions about how school districts record and respond to student absences. (Flesch Readability Score: 67.5).

Directs the Department of Education to review and make recommendations related to the recording of student absences and how school districts respond to student absences.

Requires school districts to report to the department when a student is not considered to have regular attendance.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the recording of student absences; creating new provisions; and
3 amending ORS 339.065.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall review and**
6 **make recommendations related to the state requirements for deter-**
7 **mining if a student is on a school district's active roll when the stu-**
8 **dent has 10 or more consecutive absences, as those requirements are**
9 **prescribed by rules adopted by the State Board of Education.**

10 **(2) The review conducted under subsection (1) of this section must**
11 **include consideration of:**

12 **(a) How the rule for determining active enrollment after 10 con-**
13 **secutive absences, and any resulting disenrollment of a student, af-**
14 **fects a school district's finances;**

15 **(b) Whether the process of disenrolling a student after 10 consec-**
16 **utive absences constitutes disciplinary action due to nonattendance;**
17 **and**

18 **(c) How the rule for determining active enrollment after 10 con-**

1 **secutive absences, and any resulting disenrollment of a student, af-**
2 **fects students who are absent due to an extended illness.**

3 **(3) The recommendations required by subsection (1) of this section**
4 **must include recommendations on:**

5 **(a) Potential changes to the rule for determining active enrollment**
6 **and for prescribing when a student is disenrolled due to absences; and**

7 **(b) Procedures for a reporting system that tracks the outcomes of**
8 **disenrollments due to absences and for determining whether those**
9 **outcomes equitably serve the interests of students and families, school**
10 **districts and the state.**

11 **(4) For the purpose of conducting the review and making the rec-**
12 **ommendations required by this section, the Department of Education**
13 **shall consult with:**

14 **(a) School district administrators;**

15 **(b) School district board members;**

16 **(c) Teachers and other relevant school district staff;**

17 **(d) Social workers;**

18 **(e) Parents of students; and**

19 **(f) Advocates for protected classes.**

20 **(5)(a) Not later than December 15, 2026, the department shall pro-**
21 **vide a report to:**

22 **(A) The interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to**
23 **education; and**

24 **(B) The State Board of Education.**

25 **(b) The report required under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall:**

26 **(A) Summarize the review conducted and the recommendations**
27 **made as described in this section; and**

28 **(B) Recommend any statutory changes or changes in administrative**
29 **rules.**

30 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.**

31 **SECTION 3. ORS 339.065 is amended to read:**

1 339.065. (1) In estimating regular attendance for purposes of the compul-
2 sory attendance provisions of ORS 339.005 to 339.030, 339.040 to 339.125,
3 339.137 and 339.420, the principal or teacher shall consider all unexcused
4 absences. Eight unexcused one-half day absences in any four-week period
5 during which the school is in session shall be considered irregular attend-
6 ance.

7 (2)(a) An absence may be excused by a principal or teacher if the absence
8 is caused by:

9 (A) The pupil's sickness, including the mental or behavioral health of the
10 pupil;

11 (B) The sickness of some member of the pupil's family; or

12 (C) An emergency.

13 (b) In addition to the reasons identified in paragraph (a) of this sub-
14 section, a principal or teacher:

15 (A) Shall excuse not more than seven days of absences during the school
16 year if the pupil is a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces of the
17 United States who is on active duty or who is called into active duty. For
18 the purpose of this subparagraph, "Armed Forces of the United States" in-
19 cludes:

20 (i) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the
21 United States;

22 (ii) Reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and
23 Coast Guard of the United States; and

24 (iii) The National Guard of the United States and the Oregon National
25 Guard.

26 (B) May excuse absences for other reasons when satisfactory arrange-
27 ments are made in advance of the absence.

28 (3)(a) Any pupil may be excused from attendance by the district school
29 board for a period not to exceed five days in a term of three months or not
30 to exceed 10 days in any term of at least six months. Any such excuse shall
31 be in writing directed to the principal of the school that the pupil attends.

1 (b) When calculating the number of excused absences under this sub-
2 section, any absences excused under subsection (2)(b)(A) of this section shall
3 not be counted.

4 **(4)(a) The Department of Education shall develop, and a school**
5 **district shall implement, a common coding system for reporting ab-**
6 **sences that cause a student to be considered to not have regular at-**
7 **tendance and to be disenrolled from a school district.**

8 **(b) The coding system required under this subsection shall allow the**
9 **department to collect for each student:**

10 **(A) The date of the student's disenrollment;**

11 **(B) The school district in which the student was enrolled;**

12 **(C) The grade of the student;**

13 **(D) The demographics of the student; and**

14 **(E) Any other relevant information identified by the department.**

15 **(c) Each school district shall report to the department when a stu-**
16 **dent is not considered to have regular attendance, as prescribed by the**
17 **coding system and rules adopted by the State Board of Education.**

18 **SECTION 4. (1) The amendments to ORS 339.065 by section 3 of this**
19 **2025 Act become operative on July 1, 2026.**

20 **(2) The amendments to ORS 339.065 by section 3 of this 2025 Act first**
21 **apply to the 2026-2027 school year.**

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