



Senate Bill 215: Technical Changes & Modifications to Education Statutes

Senate Education Committee

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Overview of SB 215

- Changing statutes to remove outdated language, and create more clarity for districts and ODE in our work to support students
- Includes changes in these areas:
 - Food Programs in Schools
 - Speech-Language Pathology Program
 - Complaint and Appeals Process
 - Investigations of Sexual Conduct or Abuse
 - Mobile Safety Grant - Traffic Patrol
 - Technical Assistance Provided by Education Service Districts
 - Media Standards
 - Education of Children in Hospital Facilities
 - Intensive Program for High-Needs School Districts
 - Uses of Early Learning Account
- There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state for any of these proposed changes

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- **Sections 1 - 4: Food Programs in Schools**

- Adds language allowing ODE to charge an equitable amount for fees dependent on the kind of product and program costs associated with the product
- Changes the word “Lunch” in “School Lunch” to “Food,” as the funding relates to other meal programs, i.e. School Breakfast
- Remove the language requiring that schools that provide lunch and have 25% or more eligible students to also make breakfast accessible as well; this language made obsolete with the passage of the Student Success Act
- Removes language indicating “summer months” to allow for this particular reimbursement to apply to sites that provide meals during unanticipated closures falling outside of the May-August timeframe

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- **Sections 5 - 8: Speech-Language Pathology Program**
 - Redefining “participant”
 - Adjusting the language to reflect the licensing and certification process for SLPs and SLPAs
 - Clarifying who receives the payment, and making language between sections congruent

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- **Section 9: Complaint and Appeals Process**
 - Gives ODE subpoena power related to the areas of law it has been directed to enforce, which would allow it to collect information needed for its investigations
 - These areas of law include investigating allegations of religious entanglement, discrimination, retaliation, violations of restraint and seclusion law, and violations of the Division 22 standards
 - Makes documents related to an investigation confidential and not subject to public inspection while a case is still pending
 - This change would not prevent the disclosure of public records related to an investigation once that investigation concludes

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- **Section 10: Investigations of Sexual Conduct or Abuse**
 - Senate Bill 155 (2019) is a law designed to help ensure the safety of all pre-K-12 students in Oregon; ODE's specific role is to conduct investigations for reports of sexual conduct involving school employees, contractors, agents, and volunteers who are not licensed by the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC)
 - Request flexibility to determine who is the appropriate recipient of the required notification
 - Currently, ODE is required to send its determination to the involved student, regardless of that student's age
 - Prohibit the re-disclosure of confidential documents when those documents are disclosed to others as required by that statute
 - Mimics language from SB 242 (2021) changing TSPC's SB 155 investigations

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- **Section 12: Investigations of Sexual Conduct or Abuse (cont.)**
 - Request to make records involved in sexual conduct investigations exempt from disclosure if they are less than 75 years old
- **Section 13: Investigations of Sexual Conduct or Abuse (cont.)**
 - Adds language to direct law enforcement and DHS also to disclose the outcomes of their investigations to ODE if the alleged child abuse was committed by a school employee, contractor, agent, or volunteer

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- **Section 15 & 16: Traffic Patrol (Mobile Safety Grant)**
 - Under ORS 339.665, the Department of Transportation (ODOT) and ODE were instructed to cooperate with local school to assist in their mobile safety programs; this was implemented as ODOT providing funding for ODE to provide this assistance
 - Since that time, ODOT has discontinued funding of the mobile safety grant, and responsibility for the grant now lies with ODE
 - This proposal removes ODOT from ORS 339.660 and ORS 339.665 to indicate that change

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- **Section 17 & 18: Technical Assistance Provided by Education Service Districts**
 - Removes “school district” language and replaces it with “recipients” so Education Service Districts (ESDs) are required to provide support to all potential Student Investment Account grantees in their region – school districts, charter schools, and Youth Corrections Education Programs and Juvenile Detention Education Programs (YCEPs/JDEPs)
 - Require ESDs to consider all of the eligible grantees in their region when designing and planning their technical assistance and supports as part of their Local Service Plan

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- **Section 19: Media Standards**

- Removes the reference to strong school libraries from ORS 329.095, section (4)(a)(J), which would allow all standards for school libraries to exist within OAR 581-022-2340 and eliminates discrepancies when districts report compliance
- This proposed statutory change comes from the work of an advisory group and report required by a budget note
 - [Budget Note for Media Programs Standards Final Report - December 2021](#)

- **Section 20: Education of Children in Hospital Facilities**

- Change allows an Education Service District (ESD) to award high school diplomas to students enrolled in hospital programs; as is, ESD do not have authority to award high school diplomas

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- **Section 21: Intensive Program for High-Needs School Districts**
 - Change asks that superintendents alone accept and consider recommendations from the Student Success Team
- **Section 22: Uses of Early Learning Account**
 - Updates language to allow use of the Early Learning Account for early intervention and early childhood special education (EI/ECSE) under ODE
 - All other programs under the Early Learning Account will reside within the new Department of Early Learning and Care

Questions?



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