Senate Bill 658

Sponsored by Senator KNOPP; Senator ANDERSON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Establishes pilot program to provide funding to school districts for purposes of increasing access to schools by homeless students and improving academic achievement of homeless students. Directs Department of Education to award grants to school districts participating in pilot program from Statewide Education Initiatives Account. Sunsets pilot program July 1, 2026.

Directs Department of Education to submit report on homeless students, including pilot program, to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to education.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to homeless youth; creating new provisions; amending ORS 327.254; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “ADM” has the meaning given that term in ORS 327.006.

(b) “Homeless students” means students who are considered homeless children and youths under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, 42 U.S.C. 11434a(2).

(2) The Department of Education shall establish a pilot program for the purpose of providing additional funding to school districts that have a significant population of homeless students.

(3) The department shall award grants to school districts participating in the pilot program established by this section. Grants shall be awarded from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account and must be used to provide direct assistance and supports to the homeless students of the school district, including transportation services, for the purposes of increasing access to schools and improving academic achievement.

(4)(a) The amount of a grant awarded to a school district under this section shall equal the total number of homeless students who make up the school district's ADM \times \left( \frac{\text{the total amount available for distribution to school districts under this section for each school year}}{\text{the total number of homeless students who make up the ADM of all school districts that participate in the pilot program under this section}} \right).

(b) For the purpose of the calculation made under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the total amount available for distribution to school districts under this section shall equal the amount that is 1.0 of the additional amount used to calculate weighted average daily membership under ORS 327.013 for purposes of State School Fund distributions \times \text{the total number of homeless students who make up the ADM of all school districts that participate in the pilot program under this section}.

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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(5) The department shall select seven school districts to participate in the pilot program established by this section. Any school district may apply to participate in the pilot program. To the greatest extent practicable, the department shall select school districts that:

(a) Have significant populations of homeless students, based on either the total number of homeless students of the school district or the percentage of homeless students of the school district; and

(b) Represent a diversity of sizes and geographic locations.

(6) If the department selects a school district to participate in the pilot program, the department shall enter into a grant agreement with the school district.

(7) After the department and the school district have entered into a grant agreement, the department shall award a grant to the school district in the amount calculated under subsection (4) of this section. The school district shall deposit grant moneys received under this section into a separate account and shall apply the amount in that account as provided by the grant agreement.

(8) Each year, each school district that is a grant recipient must submit to the department a description of how grant moneys received under this section were used to advance the purposes described in subsection (3) of this section. A grant recipient shall provide the information required under this subsection based on the timelines and forms prescribed by the department.

(9) The Department of Education may provide technical assistance to school districts participating in the pilot program. Technical assistance may include collaborating with the Department of Human Services to identify locations in each school district to use as shelters for homeless students.

(10) Prior to November 1 of each year, the Department of Education shall submit to the appropriate interim legislative committees related to education a report that summarizes the uses of grant moneys awarded under this section.

(11) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of the pilot program under this section.

SECTION 3. (1) Section 2 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on July 1, 2023.

(2) Notwithstanding the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education may take any action that is necessary for the board or department to exercise, on and after the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the board and the department by section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 4. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is repealed on July 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. No later than September 15, 2026, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, shall submit to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education a report on the education of homeless students in this state. The report must include, for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, information on:

(1) The percentage of homeless students who received a high school diploma, both as a percentage of total homeless students and as a percentage of all students;

(2) The demographics of homeless students; and

(3) The uses of moneys received by school districts under section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 6. Section 5 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2027.
SECTION 7. ORS 327.254 is amended to read:
327.254. (1) The Department of Education shall use moneys in the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to provide funding for statewide education initiatives, including:
   (a) Funding the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act at the levels prescribed by ORS 327.856;
   (b) Expanding school breakfast and lunch programs;
   (c) Operating youth reengagement programs or providing youth reengagement services;
   (d) Establishing and maintaining the Statewide School Safety and Prevention System under ORS 339.341;
   (e) Developing and providing statewide equity initiatives, including the Black or African-American education plan developed under ORS 329.841, the American Indian or Alaska Native education plan developed under ORS 329.843, the Latino or Hispanic education plan developed under ORS 329.845 or any similar education plan identified by the department;
   (f) Providing summer learning programs at schools that are considered high poverty under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
   (g) Funding early warning systems to assist students in graduating from high school, as described in ORS 327.367;
   (h) Developing and implementing professional development programs and training programs, including programs that increase educator diversity and retain diverse educators;
   (i) Planning for increased transparency and accountability in the public education system of this state;
   (j) Providing additional funding to school districts participating in the intensive program under ORS 327.222;
   (k) Providing technical assistance, including costs incurred for:
      (A) The coaching program described in ORS 327.214; and
      (B) The intensive program described in ORS 327.222, including costs for student success teams;
   (L) Funding public charter schools, as described in ORS 327.362;
   (m) Funding education service districts, as described in subsection (2) of this section; and

(n) Funding for homeless students, as provided by section 2 of this 2023 Act; and

[(n)] (o) Funding costs incurred by the department in implementing this section and ORS 327.175 to 327.235 and 327.274.

(2)(a) The amount of a distribution to an education service district under this section shall be made as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection after calculating the following for each education service district:
   (A) One percent of the total amount available for distribution to education service districts in each biennium.
   (B) The education service district’s ADMw × (the total amount available for distribution to education service districts in each biennium ÷ the total ADMw of all education service districts that receive a distribution).
   (b) The amount of the distribution to an education service district shall be the greater of the amounts calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, except that, for distributions made as provided by paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, the total amount available for distribution to education service districts shall be the amount remaining after any distributions required under paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection have been made.
   (c) For purposes of this subsection, ADMw equals the ADMw as calculated under ORS 327.013,
except that the additional amount allowed for students who are in poverty families, as determined
under ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(v)(I), shall be 0.5.

d) An education service district shall use moneys received under this section as provided by a
plan developed by the school districts located within the education service district. A school district
that declines to participate in the development of the plan or that has withdrawn from an education
service district as provided by ORS 334.015 is not entitled to any moneys distributed to the educa-
tion service district under this subsection.

e) A plan developed under this subsection must:

(A) Align with and support school districts in meeting the performance growth targets of the
school districts developing the plan;

(B) Include the provision of technical assistance to school districts in developing, implementing
and reviewing a plan for receiving a grant from the Student Investment Account;

(C) Provide for coordination with the department in administering and providing technical as-
sistance to school districts, including coordinating any coaching programs established under ORS
327.214; and

(D) Be adopted and amended as provided for local service plans under ORS 334.175 and approved
by the department.

(f) Each education service district must submit an annual report to the department that:

(A) Describes how the education service district spent moneys received under this subsection;

and

(B) Includes an evaluation of the education service district’s compliance with the plan from the
superintendent of each school district that participated in the development of the plan.

(3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary for the distribution of moneys un-
der this section.

SECTION 8. ORS 327.254, as amended by section 7 of this 2023 Act, is amended to read:

327.254. (1) The Department of Education shall use moneys in the Statewide Education Initi-
vatives Account to provide funding for statewide education initiatives, including:

(a) Funding the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act at the levels
prescribed by ORS 327.856;

(b) Expanding school breakfast and lunch programs;

(c) Operating youth reengagement programs or providing youth reengagement services;

(d) Establishing and maintaining the Statewide School Safety and Prevention System under ORS
339.341;

(e) Developing and providing statewide equity initiatives, including the Black or African-
American education plan developed under ORS 329.841, the American Indian or Alaska Native edu-
cation plan developed under ORS 329.843, the Latino or Hispanic education plan developed under
ORS 329.845 or any similar education plan identified by the department;

(f) Providing summer learning programs at schools that are considered high poverty under Title
I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

(g) Funding early warning systems to assist students in graduating from high school, as de-
scribed in ORS 327.367;

(h) Developing and implementing professional development programs and training programs, in-
cluding programs that increase educator diversity and retain diverse educators;

(i) Planning for increased transparency and accountability in the public education system of this
state;
(j) Providing additional funding to school districts participating in the intensive program under ORS 327.222;

(k) Providing technical assistance, including costs incurred for:
   (A) The coaching program described in ORS 327.214; and
   (B) The intensive program described in ORS 327.222, including costs for student success teams;

(L) Funding public charter schools, as described in ORS 327.362;

(m) Funding education service districts, as described in subsection (2) of this section; and

(n) Funding for homeless students, as provided by section 2 of this 2023 Act; and

(n) Funding costs incurred by the department in implementing this section and ORS 327.175 to 327.235 and 327.274.

(2)(a) The amount of a distribution to an education service district under this section shall be made as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection after calculating the following for each education service district:

   (A) One percent of the total amount available for distribution to education service districts in each biennium.

   (B) The education service district’s ADMw \times \left(\frac{\text{the total amount available for distribution to education service districts in each biennium}}{\text{the total ADMw of all education service districts that receive a distribution}}\right).

(b) The amount of the distribution to an education service district shall be the greater of the amounts calculated under paragraph (a) of this subsection, except that, for distributions made as provided by paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, the total amount available for distribution to education service districts shall be the amount remaining after any distributions required under paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection have been made.

(c) For purposes of this subsection, ADMw equals the ADMw as calculated under ORS 327.013, except that the additional amount allowed for students who are in poverty families, as determined under ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(v)(I), shall be 0.5.

(d) An education service district shall use moneys received under this section as provided by a plan developed by the school districts located within the education service district. A school district that declines to participate in the development of the plan or that has withdrawn from an education service district as provided by ORS 334.015 is not entitled to any moneys distributed to the education service district under this subsection.

(e) A plan developed under this subsection must:

   (A) Align with and support school districts in meeting the performance growth targets of the school districts developing the plan;

   (B) Include the provision of technical assistance to school districts in developing, implementing and reviewing a plan for receiving a grant from the Student Investment Account;

   (C) Provide for coordination with the department in administering and providing technical assistance to school districts, including coordinating any coaching programs established under ORS 327.214; and

   (D) Be adopted and amended as provided for local service plans under ORS 334.175 and approved by the department.

(f) Each education service district must submit an annual report to the department that:

   (A) Describes how the education service district spent moneys received under this subsection; and

   (B) Includes an evaluation of the education service district’s compliance with the plan from the
superintendent of each school district that participated in the development of the plan.

(3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary for the distribution of moneys under this section.

SECTION 9. The amendments to ORS 327.254 by section 8 of this 2023 Act become operative on July 1, 2026.

SECTION 10. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.