Senate Bill 1045

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER

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.

Directs Department of Education to review department's statutes, rules and internal policies to identify how best to incorporate suggestions made by Secretary of State following audit of education in this state.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to improvements in student academic performance as a result of improvements in education governance; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall review the department's statutes, rules and internal policies to identify how best to incorporate suggestions made by the Secretary of State in audit report 2022-16, “K-12 Education-Systemic Risk Report.”

(2) Among the areas the department must consider are:

(a) Improvements in performance monitoring and support, including improvements in the department's:

(A) Effectiveness in monitoring a recipient's use of grants and other financial assistance and the department's effectiveness in providing interventions or other support when needed to promote school district or contractor success, as applied to state and federal school improvement initiatives that include distributions from the Student Investment Account and supports available under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(B) Work in understanding and responding to performance data, including encouraging the collaboration of department staff who provide data solutions, analysis and reports and supporting that staff in monitoring and measuring the performance of school districts and initiating department response when school districts become in need of assistance.

(C) Oversight of alternative schools and online schools, including identifying statutory changes needed to ensure strong performance standards are established for providers of alternative schools and online schools, with an emphasis on providers of statewide and regional online schools.

(D) Staffing levels, and making a determination of whether staffing levels are adequate to monitor grant and school district performance and to support school districts and schools in improving performance.

(E) Ability to collect data from school districts on course grades and specific credits attained by students in grades 6 through 12, including the identification of the needs for any additional funding or statutory changes.

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.

LC 4086
(b) Improvement in transparency on results and challenges, including requiring and supporting thorough department reporting to:

(A) The Legislative Assembly and the State Board of Education for the purposes of highlighting school improvement progress and challenges to effective implementation of school improvement policies, including concerns raised by school districts and relevant stakeholders.

(B) The Legislative Assembly for the purpose of communicating the results, or the fact that results have not yet been measured, of key department programs, including programs and initiatives funded through the Fund for Student Success, the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act, Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802) and through any additional grants aimed at student success and equity, including the statewide education plans and the English language learner program.

(c) Improvements in spending scrutiny and guidance, including ensuring the department has necessary authority and resources to:

(A) Provide more analysis of effective and efficient school district spending and to provide additional information and useful tools for school districts to benchmark and evaluate their spending, including ensuring the department provides sufficient details supporting the most substantial findings in the report issued by the Quality Education Commission under ORS 327.506.

(B) Monitor and improve the depth and effectiveness of the department’s interactions with school districts on spending.

(C) Work with school districts and other relevant stakeholders to enhance transparency and analysis of school district spending, develop academic return on investment models and increase financial training for school district administrators.

(d) Improvements in establishing clear, enforceable school district standards, including the department’s ability to:

(A) Monitor and support improvements in the standards used by the department to determine if a school district is nonstandard under ORS 327.103, including ensuring that standards provide clarity and enforceability and the department provides assurance and support efforts under the process required by ORS 327.103.

(B) Provide sufficient staff to build a robust assurance effort that supports and meaningfully monitors school districts in complying with statewide standards and ensures compliance with the statewide standards.

(e) Improvements in providing governance and funding stability, including policy planning by the department that includes:

(A) Developing a comprehensive plan of programs to improve education for kindergarten through grade 12, the development of which must include the involvement of student populations that will be served by the programs and a thorough understanding of the funding, scale and school district reporting requirements, performance measurement requirements and performance expectations that will be imposed over time, with a focus on programs that support struggling schools and vulnerable students.

(B) Using the comprehensive plan developed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to ensure that new initiatives and requirements are aligned with existing efforts of the department related to school improvement, and tracking the number of new programs intro-
duced each legislative session for the purposes of fostering coordinated action at the
department and reducing duplication and administrative burdens on the department and
school districts.

(C) Requiring programs to have strong performance measurement plans and robust in-
terim updates, combined with incremental improvements, the maintenance of adequate
long-term funding and the provision of adequate time for meaningful results.

(3) When considering the areas identified in subsection (2) of this section, the department
shall identify how best to communicate with the Legislative Assembly, including:

(a) The frequency and content of reports related to performance monitoring and the
provision of support to school districts;

(b) The identification of any statutory changes that are needed to clarify or strengthen
the department’s authority; and

c) The identification of additional appropriations required by the department to ade-
quately satisfy staffing needs.

SECTION 2. 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
July 1, 2023.