



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Director of the Department of Education

**House Bill 2275 – Grant Consolidation**  
**House Education Committee**  
**January 23, 2023**

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the House Education Committee, I am Zoe Larmer, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2275.

In House Bill 5015 (2019), ODE received a budget note to study the various K-12 Grant-in-Aid programs to determine if further programs can be combined with other programs or eliminated. A presentation of the report was given to Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education in February 2022. Following the report, ODE is implementing efforts to modernize its grant management system and improving communication across programs. This bill is a next step forward, creating more operational alignment at the Department.

Currently identified changes include:

- Amending ORS 327.185 to have Student Investment Account (SIA) application requirements include recommendations of each dedicated Student Success Act (SSA) Student Success Plan Advisory body.
  - This change asks school districts and eligible grantees to reference SSA Advisory plans as they develop their overall SIA and strategic planning efforts; this will help center student identities and further meet the goals outlined by the SSA.
- Changing the Student Investment Account minimum funding floor for Youth Corrections Education Program / Juvenile Detention Education Program schools to align to the SIA minimum funding floor for school districts, which for 22-23 is \$33,685.
- Modifying language of the American Indian / Alaska Native Student Success Plan to change how the funds may be used to meet the objectives of the plan – allowing more flexibility in funding, including contracts in addition to grants for eligible recipients. This is necessary given the unique needs in partnership with the sovereign tribes.
  - For example, does a particular issue affecting American Indian / Alaska Native students need to be studied by a higher education institute? This change in language would allow contracting when a need is identified by the plan.
- Consolidating program statutes relating to the Expanded Options program.
- Allowing ODE, in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, to determine how funds from the Accelerated College Credit Account are distributed among existing grant programs.
- Changing the report due date regarding funds received by public charter schools under the Statewide Education Initiatives Account of the SSA to February 1st - aligning with other SSA legislative update and reports.

Each change requested by the Department represents an opportunity to strengthen alignment, improve coordination, or reduce administrative burden and/or administrative confusion. There is no anticipated fiscal impact with any of these recommended changes to statute.

ODE continues to pursue additional ways to make the right work easier for school districts and education partners while meeting the responsibilities we hold under federal and state law and in service to students, educators, and communities. Through this ongoing work, we hope to create efficiencies for both the agency and school districts across Oregon, allowing educators to focus on their most important duty – supporting our students. We appreciate the Legislature’s support in making this happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Larmer

Government Relations Director