

## HB 4084 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/12, 2/14

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer a pilot program to provide three public middle or high schools with funds to address academic disparities experienced by foster child students. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

*May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

#### Detailed Summary:

Enacts the following:

- Defines foster child students as middle or high school students in the care and custody of the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) per ORS [418](#), [419B](#), or [419A.004](#).
- Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer a pilot program to provide three public middle or high schools with grant funds from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to address academic disparities experienced by foster child students. Directs ODE to use the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to fund the pilot program. Directs schools participating in the pilot program to provide foster child students with access to an individual who serves as educational advocate.
- Requires ODE to submit two reports to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly containing a summary of the pilot program, changes in educational outcomes for participants, and recommendations for a statewide education plan for foster child students. Requires ODE to submit the reports no later than September 15, 2025, and September 15, 2027.
- Permits the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules necessary for the administration of the measure, including to ensure that ODE distributes pilot program grants no later than July 1, 2024.
- Repeals statutes governing the pilot program on June 30, 2027. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Partnerships between schools, behavioral health providers, and community-based organizations
- Academic challenges for foster youth
- Possibility of future statewide education plan for foster child students
- Challenges of maintaining services for foster youth who move schools
- History of bills addressing needs of foster child students, such as [HB 3471 \(2011\)](#)

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) began collecting [data on graduation rates](#) for foster children in the 2016-17 school year. Between that time and the 2019-20 school year, foster child graduation rates ranged between 43.9 and 48.6 percent. In the same time period, graduation rates for the general student population ranged between 80.6 and 82.6 percent.

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The legislature has established Student Success Plans for five demographic areas of students: first, American Indian and Alaska Native students in the 1980s; then Black or African American students in 2016; then LGBTQ+ students and Latino and Indigenous students in 2021, and most recently, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in 2023 ([ORS 329.841 to 849](#)). [Senate Bill 1532 \(2024\)](#) would create a Student Success Plan for immigrant, refugee, and asylum seeker students. These Student Success Plans, also known as statewide education plans, include grant programs. Oregon does not currently have a statewide education plan for students who are foster children.