

HB 4082 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/07/24

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Cramer, Hudson, McIntire, Neron, Nguyen H, Valderrama, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer a grant program to fund summer learning, specifies grant eligibility requirements, and appropriates \$50 million for summer learning from the General Fund. It directs ODE to conduct a study and to propose recommendations for summer and after-school programs to address education disparities in K-12 students. It declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Detailed Summary:

Grant Program (Sections 1-3)

- Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer a Summer Learning Grant program, awarding grants to programs serving incoming kindergartners through outgoing 12th graders using moneys from the Summer Learning Program Account.
 - Specifies the following program elements for grant eligibility:
 - academic enrichment in math, science, language arts, or personal finance, as adopted under [ORS 329.045](#).
 - youth development;
 - equitable access, outreach, and engagement.
 - Prescribes summer learning programs' minimum hours per session for grant eligibility.
 - Opens grant eligibility to school districts, education service districts, or public charter schools.
 - Specifies that requirements for grant applications include:
 - descriptions of how the program will satisfy grant eligibility requirements,
 - documentation that the applicant has a plan for summer learning, which may include a plan developed to receive federal or Oregon state grant funds, and
 - a description of how the applicant will use grant funds with its other funding sources.
 - Permits applicants to partner with
 - school districts or education service districts,
 - Oregon federally recognized Indian tribes,
 - community-based organizations, or
 - units of local government or local service districts.
 - Directs ODE to prioritize awarding grants to programs serving groups that have historically experienced academic disparities.
 - Requires ODE to adopt an award formula in rule and establish processes and timelines for awarding grants.
 - Grants the State Board of Education (SBE) rulemaking authority regarding the use of grant funds for administrative expenses and limits the use of grant funds for administrative expenses to no more than ten percent of the grant amount.

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- Requires grant recipients to submit a report to ODE that states the
 - numbers and demographics of students,
 - activities of the summer learning program and how activities meet grant eligibility requirements,
 - program staffing levels and staff training, and
 - surveys, qualitative data, credits earned by students, focus groups, or third-party evaluations.
- Grants the State Board of Education authority to adopt rules necessary for ODE to administer the grant program.

Appropriations (Section 4)

- Appropriates to ODE \$50 million from the General Fund to the Summer Learning Program Account, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025.

Study (Section 5-6)

- Directs ODE to study and propose recommendations for an Oregon 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative. Requires the initiative to address education disparities by increasing after-school and summer learning opportunities. Requires that the study's recommendations address the following goals:
 - access to programs for historically underrepresented children,
 - programs that align with research and best practices,
 - grant administration that reduces burdens for applicants while maintaining accountability,
 - standards for program quality and oversight,
 - incentives for after-school and summer learning program providers to build partnerships with each other, and
 - best practices for design and administration of state grant programs.
- Directs ODE to consult education stakeholders for the purpose of the study.
- Requires ODE to submit a report to the Legislature's interim committees on education by September 15, 2024.
- Repeals provisions related to the study on January 2, 2025.

Emergency Clause (Section 7)

- Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Collaboration between legislative and executive branches
- Partnerships between school districts, government entities, and community-based organizations to implement summer learning programs
- Benefits of summer learning programs for specific student groups
- Provisions of amendment
- Challenges for program planning under current funding structure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies ages of students served, increases the flexibility of programs' hourly requirements, expands the lists of existing plans and allowable partner entities, and expands the use of grant funds for administrative expenses.

Detailed Summary:

- Removes summer learning for preschool students from grant eligibility.
- Replaces, in several places throughout the measure, "any grade from kindergarten through grade twelve" with "incoming kindergarten students through outgoing twelfth grade students."
- Specifies that academic content standards for summer learning programs are the standards adopted under [ORS 329.045](#).
- Makes changes to hours and days requirements for summer learning programs; under the amendment, required hours are calculated per session of the program, and may include hours provided by a community partner.

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- Alters documentation requirements of grant recipients.
- Adds school districts, education service districts, units of local government, and local service districts to the list of entities with which a grant applicant may partner in providing summer learning programs.
- Increases the limit on the percent of grant funds recipients may use for administrative expenses from five percent to ten percent.
- Removes the requirement that ODE's study develop recommendations for certification or training of after-school and summer learning staff.

BACKGROUND:

The 81st Legislative Assembly allocated funds for summer learning in the 2021 and 2022 sessions. [Senate Bill 531](#) (2023) would have provided similar funds for summer learning in 2023. The 82nd Legislative Assembly did not appropriate summer learning funds in 2023. Programs that used legislative appropriations to expand in 2021 and 2022 reported cuts in staffing, programming, and numbers of students served in 2023.

A [2023 summary by the National Conference of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL) notes that, although summer learning programs once were seen as remedial education for students who had failed courses, educators increasingly view summer learning as an effective way to combat the loss in learning that students can experience during months-long breaks from school. NCSL cites [RAND research](#) indicating that low-income students benefit in particular from summer programs' math, literacy, and social-emotional lessons, so long as programs meet minimum hours requirements. A [2021 report by the Education Commission of the States](#) (ECS) identifies summer learning programs as a potential strategy to address students' unfinished learning related to online and hybrid schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report cites legislative action in more than a half-dozen states to appropriate funds or support summer learning programs, including in California, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.