A-Bill for an Act

Relating to funding for expanded learning opportunities; creating new provisions; amending ORS 327.496; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2024 Act and ORS 327.496 are added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.

SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Education shall establish and administer the Summer Learning Grant program.

(2) Under the grant program, the department shall award grants for summer learning programs that are provided to incoming kindergarten students through outgoing grade 12 students. Grants shall be awarded from the Summer Learning Program Account established in ORS 327.496. A summer learning program is eligible for a grant if the program meets all three of the following requirements:

(a) The program provides academic enrichment by:

(A) Using a variety of learning strategies that align with academic content standards adopted under ORS 329.045 and focused on mathematics, science, language arts or personal financial education and that, when appropriate, assist with credit recovery; and

(B) As appropriate, assisting with school readiness and providing transition supports prior to kindergarten, prior to middle school, through the middle and high school grades or after high school graduation.

(b) The program provides youth development by using a broad array of well-rounded enrichment opportunities that:

(A) Include hands-on, inquiry-based and project-based learning, which may include access

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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to the arts; and
(B) Support students’ mental, emotional and social well-being.
(c) The program provides equitable access, outreach and engagement by:
(A) Using culturally and linguistically responsive approaches to student academic success
and well-being; and
(B) Engaging families as partners in students’ academic success.
(3) In addition to the requirements prescribed by subsection (2) of this section, a summer
learning program must be provided for a minimum of 80 total hours for each session of the
program. Calculations made under this subsection may include hours provided by an entity
with which a partnership has been entered, as described in subsection (4)(c) of this section.
(4)(a) Any school district, education service district or public charter school, or any
combination thereof, may apply to receive a grant under this section for a summer learning
program.
(b) The department shall award a grant to an applicant based on whether the applicant
meets the requirements for the grant. An application for a grant must include:
(A) A description of the summer learning program and how the program satisfies the
requirements described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.
(B) Documentation that the applicant has a plan for summer learning, which may in-
clude:
(i) A plan developed under ORS 327.185 to receive a grant from the Student Investment
Account;
(ii) An early literacy success plan developed under ORS 327.831 to receive a grant under
the Early Literacy Success School Grant program;
(iii) A plan developed under ORS 327.883 to receive a grant under the High School Grad-
uation and College and Career Readiness Act; or
(iv) A plan developed as required to receive federal funding, as identified by the State
Board of Education by rule.
(C) A description of how the grant will be used with other funding sources available to
the applicant.
(c)(A) An applicant for a grant may enter into a partnership with one or more entities
to provide a summer learning program that is funded by a grant under this section.
(B) Entities with which an applicant may enter into a partnership include a school dis-
trict, an education service district, a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state, a
community-based organization, a unit of local government as defined in ORS 190.003 or a lo-
cal service district as defined in ORS 174.116.
(C) If an applicant applies for a grant based on a plan that includes a partnership with
an entity identified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the applicant must provide with
the application a written letter of support from the entity. The letter must include a de-
scription of services to be provided by the entity and the budget of the entity for the pro-
vision of those services.
(5)(a) The department shall award grants under this section based on a formula estab-
lished by the State Board of Education by rule.
(b) When awarding grants, the department shall:
(A) Prioritize funding for summer learning programs that serve student groups that have
historically experienced academic disparities, as described in ORS 327.180 (2)(b).
(B) Encourage and support partnerships with entities identified in subsection (4)(c)(B) of this section to provide expanded learning opportunities during nonschool hours.

(c) The department shall establish the process and timelines for awarding a grant under this section. The process must be communicated on the department’s website and be easily accessible by applicants.

(6)(a) Grants awarded under this section may be used for all expenses related to:

(A) Providing personnel and staffing for a summer learning program, including professional development.

(B) Providing summer learning, including curriculum, technology and other supplies.

(C) Contracting with third parties to provide a summer learning program.

(D) Providing incentives and removing barriers to student participation in a summer learning program.

(E) Providing facilities that will support and accommodate a summer learning program.

(F) Providing student transportation for a summer learning program.

(G) Providing nutritious snacks and meals to participants of a summer learning program.

(H) Engaging family members in summer learning program activities.

(b) As provided by rule of the State Board of Education, a recipient of a grant received under this section may use a percentage of the grant moneys for administrative expenses. The rules shall:

(A) Provide for the use of grant moneys for the administrative expenses of both the applicant and any entities with which the applicant has entered into a partnership to provide a summer learning program; and

(B) Limit the percentage of grant moneys that may be used for administrative expenses, as allowed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, to no more than a total of 10 percent of the grant amount.

(7) In administering the grant program, the department shall minimize administrative barriers for grant recipients while retaining accountability for resources allocated and spent. Recipients of a grant must provide to the department a report that includes:

(a) The number and demographics of students served by the summer learning program;

(b) Activities of the summer learning program;

(c) Information regarding staffing levels of the summer learning program and training provided to staff of the summer learning program;

(d) A description of how activities of the summer learning program supported the requirements described in subsection (2) of this section; and

(e) A report on three or more of the following outcome areas:

(A) Perception surveys of the summer learning program, as provided by students, staff and families;

(B) Qualitative data and stories of impact for the summer learning program;

(C) Credits earned by participants of the summer learning program, if applicable;

(D) Participation of the summer learning program provider in site visits, interviews or focus groups; or

(E) Summer learning program evaluations by a third party.

(8) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section.

SECTION 3. ORS 327.496 is amended to read:
327.496. (1) The Summer Learning Program Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.

(2) The account consists of moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise.

(3) The Department of Education, on behalf of the State of Oregon, may solicit and accept gifts, grants, donations and other moneys from public and private sources for deposit in the account.

(4) Moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the Department of Education to disburse [or expend for activities or programs related to providing summer academic and enrichment opportunities for school-aged children] as grants as provided by section 2 of this 2024 Act.

(5) The Department of Education may enter into grant agreements, contracts, intergovernmental agreements or other agreements with school districts, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, federally recognized tribes or other entities to provide summer academic and enrichment programs and may disburse or expend moneys from the account pursuant to such agreements.

(6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary for the administration of the account.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of $50 million, which shall be deposited into the Summer Learning Program Account.

SECTION 5. (1) The Department of Education shall study and propose recommendations to develop an Oregon 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative. The initiative shall address education disparities through increased summer and after-school learning opportunities.

(2) Through the study, the department shall propose recommendations for the initiative that:

(a) Ensure equitable access to programs for historically underserved incoming kindergarten students through outgoing grade 12 students.

(b) Identify funding mechanisms to ensure that high-quality learning and enrichment programs are provided during summer or after school and are sustained in accordance with research and best practices, including identifying how the state could leverage existing learning initiatives and programs and existing state-administered grant programs.

(c) Streamline grant administration and reduce administrative burdens for grant applicants and grant recipients while also maintaining high levels of accountability.

(d) Propose quality and oversight standards for the provision of summer and after-school learning and enrichment programs.

(e) Propose options for outcomes and metrics to align programs across the goals identified in section 2 (2) of this 2024 Act.

(f) Identify incentives for school districts, education service districts, public charter schools, federally recognized Indian tribes, community-based organizations and other providers of learning and enrichment programs to build partnerships, increase communication and align strategies for supporting children and students.

(g) Establish best practices for the design and administration of a state grant program, including timing, insurance, the application process and review, staff training, data collection and standards for reporting and communicating impact.

(3) For the purpose of the study conducted under this section, the department shall
consult with education stakeholders, including school districts, education service districts, public charter schools, federally recognized Indian tribes, community-based organizations and other providers of learning and enrichment programs.

(4) The department shall submit a report on the study in the manner provided by ORS 192.245 to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2024.

SECTION 6. Section 5 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

SECTION 7. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect on its passage.