



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



Dr. Charlene Williams
Director of the Department of Education

SB 1552: Educator Advancement Council Technical Fixes
Senate Education Committee
February 8, 2024

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Sara Spencer and I am the Interim Executive Director for the Educator Advancement Council (EAC). Thank you for the opportunity to provide information related to Sections 28 and 29 of Senate Bill 1552 on behalf of the Educator Advancement Council.

The Council is a 21-member board of directors representing educators, local and state education agency leaders, higher education, early learning, community and philanthropic partners, Tribes, and professional associations. Created in 2017 by the Oregon Legislature, the Council coordinates the use of state resources for initiatives that aim to help Oregon achieve high-quality, well-supported and culturally responsive educators in every classroom. To achieve this, the Council works to ensure that educators experience a seamless system of support throughout their careers - from recruitment to retirement. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) supports the strategic direction and administers grant programs on behalf of the Council.

SB 1552 Sections 28 and 29 contain technical changes that are needed for the effective operation of the Council as well as continuation of educator development and support programs funded by the Legislature, including:

Updating the definition of “Educator” in ORS 342.940 to include non-licensed educators and educator candidates

- With an anticipated amendment, the new definition is inclusive of non-licensed K-12 and early learning educators, as well as candidates pursuing education careers.
- This would allow Educator Advancement Funds to be used for professional development, scholarship, and Grow Your Own programs that support classified staff and educator candidates in addition to licensed educators.
- The change is necessary for the continuation of current programs previously funded by the Student Success Act, now funded by the Educator Advancement Fund.
- This change aligns the allowable use of funds with legislative intent in establishing the Council as a body that coordinates resources based on continuously assessing the needs of educators.

Reinstating State Agency Authority to Establish the EAC



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- Names the Oregon Department of Education, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, and Department of Early Learning and Care as signatories to the Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the EAC.
- As intended by the Legislature in passing SB 275 in 2023, this technical fix is required in order for the EAC to operate under the Intergovernmental Agreement as described in ORS 342.940.
- This change is critical to the effective operation of the Council, as the statutory changes adopted in 2023 (i.e. SB 275, SB 283, and HB 3383) require changes to be codified in the Council's Intergovernmental Agreement through signature of the state agencies.

Improve access to one-time funds for Beginning Educator Mentoring Programs

- Removes requirement that one-time grant funds be awarded through a competitive process in the 2023-2025 biennium.
- This would allow flexibility for one-time grant funding to be used most effectively in the current biennium.

These changes have no anticipated fiscal impact. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Spencer
Interim Executive Director
Educator Advancement Council

