



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to the maximum age for students in public education; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Education, Oregon Youth Authority, Department of Corrections, Counties, Oregon Military Department, School Districts, Sheriffs

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure increases the maximum age under which a student may receive a public education. Currently, Oregon law only requires school districts to provide a free appropriate public education to a student until the end of the school year in which the student turns 21 years of age. For example, if a student turns 21 years old on March 19, 2025, they could stay enrolled and receive services through the end of the 2024-25 school year. The measure increases the age limit eligibility for public education for students with disabilities to include students who are 21 years old. Under the measure, a student turning 21 years old on March 19, 2025, could finish the 2024-25 school year, remain enrolled, and continue receiving services in the 2025-26 school year until March 18, 2026 (i.e., the day before turning 22 years old).

Fiscal Analysis

The number of students eligible to receive a public education is anticipated to increase by allowing certain students to continue to receive educational services until the day before they turn 22 years of age.

If this measure had been in effect during the school year 2024-25, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) estimates that 522 students with disabilities would have been newly qualified to receive continued public education. In addition, ODE projects that 541 students would qualify under the measure for continued public education in the school year 2025-26. However, it is unclear how many of the newly eligible students would return the following school year; and even if these students did return, they would only continue until their 22nd birthday, at which time they would no longer be eligible to receive education services.

The measure is anticipated to add to the total student population calculated in the State School Fund distributions, which will be factored into future current service level calculations. Newly eligible students in the measure are special education students who may be served in multiple educational settings, including residential facilities. The costs associated with providing special education services vary broadly based on the setting and individual needs of the student. Additionally, there is a potential impact to the apportioned funding distributed through the State School Fund and the High Cost Disability Account if more students are added without also adding more funding.

The fiscal impact to school districts is indeterminate because the impact to individual districts would depend on what is considered the least restrictive environment under the individualized education plan in place for each eligible student. It is also possible that not every district would have students who qualify for continued education services, in which case the measure would have no immediate impact on those districts. Depending

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on the needs of each student's individualized education plan, impacted districts may need to hire additional staff.

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections, Oregon Youth Authority, Oregon Military Department, Sheriffs, and counties.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.