

HB 2374 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the Parenting Effectiveness Program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help support students and families in maintaining regular attendance through education, support, and assistance in applying for available resources. It directs DHS to award grants to counties or local entities to implement the programs and outlines the allowable uses of the grants. The measure requires school district attendance supervisors to refer chronically absent students to the nearest local parenting effectiveness program.

Detailed Summary:

- Establishes the Parenting Effectiveness Program in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support families in promoting school attendance and academic success.
- Defines “chronically absent” as a student who has unexcused absences for 10 percent of more of school days in a four-week period.
- Directs DHS to award grants to counties or other local entities to implement local parenting effectiveness programs.
- Outlines the allowable uses of awarded grants, including providing education and support to participating families and assisting families in applying for available resources.
- Requires the attendance supervisor for a school district to refer a chronically absent student and their family to the nearest local parenting effectiveness program for a needs assessment and services to help the student maintain regular school attendance.
- Allows DHS to adopt rules to implement the program.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces the bill. It establishes the CARE Program within the Youth Development Division (YDD) to support families in improving school attendance and academic success and to assist families in reducing barriers that contribute to school absences and lack of basic needs. The amendment directs YDD to award grants to counties or local entities to implement local CARE programs.

Detailed Summary

- Replaces the bill.
- Establishes the CARE Program within the Youth Development Division (YDD).
- Describes the purposes of the CARE program, including that the program:
 - Support families in fostering a positive school-to-home connection that promotes school attendance and academic success;
 - Provide a coordinated social service delivery system;
 - Reduce barriers that contribute to absence from school and a lack of basic needs.
- Directs YDD to award grants to counties or local entities to implement local CARE programs.
- Outlines the allowable uses of awarded grant funding, including:

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- Advocating for participating families at school meetings and appointments to ensure access to culturally and linguistically relevant services;
- Providing education and support to participating families;
- Assisting families in applying for and accessing available resources.
- Directs school districts to refer students and families identified as needing attendance support to the nearest local CARE program for a needs assessment and services to help the student maintain regular school attendance.
- Allows YDD to adopt rules to implement the program.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

BACKGROUND:

Chronic absenteeism is generally defined as the percentage of students who miss ten percent or more of school days, including both excused and unexcused absences. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) collects and calculates data on regular attendees, defined as students who attend more than 90 percent of the days they are enrolled in a school. In the 2023-24 school year, approximately 34.3 percent of students in Oregon were chronically absent, missing 10 percent or more of school days ([ODE, 2024](#)). In the 2018-19 school year, 20.4% of students were chronically absent ([ODE, 2019](#)).

In recent years, Oregon has implemented several initiatives at the state-level to address rising rates of chronic absenteeism. In 2018, ODE launched the [Every Day Matters Campaign](#) which included a toolkit for educators and families with information and resources to help reduce chronic absenteeism. Every Day Matters also provides funds to Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and awards funding through the Integrated Community Partnership Grant program ([ODE, 2024](#)). ODE also distributes funds through the [Tribal Attendance Promising Practices](#) (TAPP) initiative to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism for American Indian/Alaska Native+ students.

At the local level, the [Umatilla County CARE Program](#) supports families by providing a coordinated and integrated social service delivery program to promote healthy, safety, education, and general well-being. CARE specialists meet with parents to identify services and support, and to connect families with community partners. The Umatilla County CARE Program is a joint effort of Umatilla County, InterMountain Education Service District, and other local school districts.