

HB 2729 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/19/25

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

Vote: 5-3-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dobson, Hudson, Neron, Nguyen H, Ruiz

Nays: 3 - Harbick, McIntire, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop and implement a grant program for school districts, educational service districts and entities to increase school based mental health services and substance use prevention and treatment services. It appropriates \$7 million from the General Fund to OHA to implement the grant program. It requires OHA to study methods for providing reimbursement for mental health services delivered by school-based health centers and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly. The measure takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inflation adjustment and costs of school-based health center
- Impacts of school-based health centers on students.
- Rural access to school-based health centers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment removes sections relating to the base grants for the student health centers, the awarding of grants to school districts or educational service districts for district planning and technical assistance, the authorization of the Oregon Treasurer to issue lottery bonds for this act, and the budget request requirement for the Oregon Health Authority. The amendment modifies the appropriation from \$7,850,000 to \$7 million.

BACKGROUND:

School-based health centers (SBHCs) are medical clinics that provide physical, behavioral, and preventive health services on school grounds or inside a school. SBHCs are staffed by licensed health care professionals and are available to students, with some centers providing medical services to siblings, families, and community members.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has established certification standards for SBHCs. The certification standards cover issues such as facility requirements, hours of operation, minimum staffing requirements, comprehensive care, data collection and reporting, and billing. According to OHA, there were 85 certified SBHCs located throughout Oregon as of July 2023. In the [2022 Oregon Health Survey](#), 18.4 percent of 11th graders, 12.9 percent of eighth graders, and 7.2 percent of sixth graders indicated a poor emotional and mental health.