

SB 1596 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the State Board of Education to allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for elementary school students.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for joy in classrooms
- Benefits of play-based learning
- Need for statutory change or guidance from ODE
- Role of local school boards and State Board of Education
- Local control, inconsistency across state
- Teaching methods for different types of students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

State law gives the State Board of Education authority to set requirements for instructional time in administrative rule, with the exception of statutes requiring physical education (Oregon Revised Statute 329.496). The State Board of Education has enacted Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-2320, which outlines the requirements for instructional time at each grade level. For grades K-8, 900 hours of instructional time are currently required. Up to 60 of these hours can be used by school districts for teachers' professional development or for parent-teacher conferences, and up to 60 hours of instructional time can be used for recess in full-day kindergarten programs (30 hours in half-day kindergarten programs).

Instructional time is currently defined in administrative rule as time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments that are designed to meet Common Curriculum Goals and academic content standards, and are working under the direction and supervision of a licensed teacher or instructor (OAR 581-022-0102).