

HB 4149 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure enacts requirements for the education of homeless students.

Detailed Summary:

- Requires school district and education service district (ESD) boards to adopt policies providing for the immediate enrollment, school placement, and provision of services to homeless students, and specifies the required policies' components
- Requires school districts and ESDs to designate a local liaison to ensure the provision and coordination of services for homeless students
- Requires school districts and ESDs to place homeless students in their schools of origin for the duration of their homelessness, including for the remainder of the school year during which they became homeless or for the school year following the summer during which the student became homeless, and exempts a school district if it determines that a different placement is in the student's best interest
- Requires school districts and ESDs to allow a student to continue attending the same school if they cease being homeless during the school year, and exempts a school district if it determines that a different placement is in the student's best interest
- Enacts requirements for the determination of a student's best interest
- Requires school districts and ESDs to provide transportation to homeless students
- Requires governing boards to adopt a dispute-resolution process for the provision of services to homeless students, and enacts requirements related to dispute resolution
- Requires the Oregon Department of Education to designate a state coordinator responsible for overseeing the provision of education and related services to homeless students, and specifies the coordinator's responsibilities
- Requires that a homeless student be considered a resident of the school district where their school of origin is located if they still attend their school of origin
- Makes conforming amendments

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Codification of federal law in state law
- Homeless and foster students' needs
- Homeless students' experiences
- Federal funding
- McKinney-Vento Act
- Children and families commissions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Originally enacted in 1987, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the federal law governing the educational rights of homeless students. It authorizes the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youths (EHCY) program and was most recently reauthorized in 2015. The act gives eligible children the right to immediate school enrollment, the right to remain in their school of origin if that is in the student's best interest, the right to

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receive transportation to and from the school of origin, and the right to receive support for academic success.

According to the Oregon Department of Education's [most recent statewide annual report](#), Oregon had 21,122 public school students who met the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act in the 2024–2025 school year. This represents 3.9 percent of the total public school student population. Oregon received over \$919,960 in federal funds to support these students in that school year. For the cohort that entered high school in the 2020–2021 school year, homeless students had a 61.3 percent four-year graduation rate.

PRELIMINARY