

# Senate Bill 1596

Sponsored by Senators FREDERICK, MANNING JR; Senators CAMPOS, GOLDEN, JAMA, PROZANSKI, WEBER, Representatives ANDERSEN, GAMBA, HELM, ISADORE, MCINTIRE, NELSON, PHAM H, WISE (at the request of Oregon Public Education Network) (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

**Digest:** Allows learning by playing to count towards time required by the State Board of Education. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Directs the State Board of Education to allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for students in kindergarten through grade five.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to play-based learning.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2026 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.**

**SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:**

**(a) "Free play" means activities that:**

**(A) Are performed by a child for self-amusement; and**

**(B) Are spontaneous, voluntary, unstructured and child-directed.**

**(b) "Guided play" means experiences that:**

**(A) Are under adult guidance; and**

**(B) Combine the child-directed nature of free play with a focus on learning outcomes.**

**(c) "Play-based learning" means learning that:**

**(A) Emphasizes free play or guided play; and**

**(B) Uses developmentally appropriate strategies that can be integrated into existing learning standards.**

**(d) "Recess" means a period of at least 20 minutes during which students engage in physical exercise.**

**(2) Any rules adopted by the State Board of Education that prescribe requirements for instructional time shall allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for students in kindergarten through grade five.**

**(3) For the purpose of this section, play-based learning does not include participation in physical education that complies with the requirements of ORS 329.496 or recess.**

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.