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HB 2752: Expanded Provision of the Individualized Summary of Performance for Students with Disabilities

House Education Committee March 8, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Cindy Hunt speaking on behalf of the Oregon Education Department. I am here today to provide information about HB 2752 that expands the situations in which school districts are required to develop an individualized summary of performance for students with disabilities.

Background

Currently, the federal special education regulations and Oregon's Administrative Rules require school districts to develop a summary of performance for students with disabilities when they receive a regular diploma or when the student with disabilities exceeds the age of eligibility for FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education). The summary of performance is a critical document in supporting the successful transition of students to post-secondary school and/or career. Current ODE guidance recommends that students with disabilities are provided with a summary when they graduate with a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance, so that all students with disabilities have information about their skills/abilities/interests relative to academics and vocation experiences.

Issue

Many students with disabilities are awarded a modified or extended diploma, or a certificate, as they complete their high school career, but do not exit with supportive paperwork to assist with a successful transition to school and/or work. Post-secondary institutions, vocational schools, and other agencies that support adults with disabilities through this transition, find this documentation invaluable to the students' success. Clarity is needed within the proposed bill to address the definition of "when the child otherwise no longer attends high school." Would the current proposal requiring that a district provide this summary long after a student has been enrolled? It would be difficult for a district to provide relevant and current information regarding the student and his/her performance or interests.

Legislation

HB 2752 would essentially require the individualized summary of performance for all students with disabilities as they transition to post-secondary environments, with some additional informational categories related to student input, recommendations and student performance. Some of the proposed additional information is already included with the ODE guidance documents for the summary of performance.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact for the department would be costs associated with the in the development of policies and procedures to reflect this new requirement. Once the new rules and guidance were determined, then the department would have additional costs for implementation, most notably in updating the monitoring system (SPR&I) and database, followed by professional development around the state. The projected expenses are estimated to be about \$107,000.