

House Bill 2939

Sponsored by Representative DOHERTY

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**.

Directs Youth Development Division to develop and administer statewide youth reengagement system. Allows school districts to provide youth reengagement programs in collaboration with division. Prescribes requirements of programs.

Modifies student accounting system requirements to ensure, to extent practicable, that school districts do not have disincentive to reengage youths.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to youth reengagement; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 339.515, 341.481 and
3 417.847.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) **As used in this section, "eligible youth" means a person who:**

6 (a) **Is at least 16 years of age but younger than 21 years of age at the beginning of the**
7 **school year; and**

8 (b)(A) **Is a school dropout, as that term is defined in ORS 339.505;**

9 (B) **Is not making sufficient progress toward meeting state and local requirements for a**
10 **high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma before reaching 21 years of**
11 **age, as determined based on standards adopted by the Youth Development Council by rule;**
12 **or**

13 (C) **Is recommended to participate in a youth reengagement program by the Department**
14 **of Human Services, a juvenile court, the Oregon Youth Authority or any other entity iden-**
15 **tified by the Youth Development Council by rule.**

16 (2) **The Youth Development Division shall develop and administer a statewide youth re-**
17 **engagement system to provide appropriate educational opportunities and access to services**
18 **for eligible youths.**

19 (3) **Under the statewide youth reengagement system, a school district may choose to**
20 **provide a youth reengagement program. A youth reengagement program:**

21 (a) **Must be offered in collaboration with the Youth Development Division; and**

22 (b) **May include a partnership with an education service district, a community college**
23 **district or another public entity or with a community-based organization.**

24 (4) **A youth reengagement program must offer, at a minimum, the following:**

25 (a) **Academic instruction that enables an eligible youth to receive credit that can be:**

26 (A) **Applied toward a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma; or**

27 (B) **Used to improve college or career readiness, including courses that assist the student**
28 **in preparing for an approved high school equivalency test such as the General Educational**
29 **Development (GED) test; and**

30 (b) **Services for monitoring and supporting eligible youths, including:**

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.

1 (A) Academic and career counseling and coaching services; and

2 (B) Assistance with accessing services and resources that support at-risk youth and re-
3 duce barriers to educational success.

4 (5) If a school district chooses to provide a youth reengagement program, the school
5 district may enter into an agreement to provide academic instruction or services as de-
6 scribed in subsection (4) of this section. The agreement:

7 (a) May be with an education service district, a community college district or another
8 public entity or with a community-based organization; and

9 (b) Must comply with any other requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education
10 or the Youth Development Division by rule.

11 (6)(a) The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Youth Development Coun-
12 cil, shall establish by rule criteria for a school district to receive funding under ORS 327.013
13 for eligible youths participating in a youth reengagement program.

14 (b) The criteria to receive funding may prescribe:

15 (A) Enrollment and attendance standards for eligible youths that are different from the
16 standards for other students of the school district, but that consider the eligible youths to
17 be enrolled full time.

18 (B) Performance measures that establish targets that must be met for purposes of ac-
19 countability. The performance measure targets shall be based on standards adopted by the
20 Youth Development Council and may take into account the specific purpose of the program
21 offered by the school district, the population served by the program and any other factors
22 identified by the council.

23 (c) The criteria to receive funding must require a school district to provide to the De-
24 partment of Education and the Youth Development Division information that, at a minimum,
25 describes:

26 (A) How the school district will identify, refer and enroll eligible youths;

27 (B) How academic instruction and services will be provided through the youth reengage-
28 ment program and what academic instruction and services will be provided;

29 (C) How student records will be maintained and how data will be collected and reported;

30 (D) How any applicable assessments under ORS 329.485 or 329.488 will be administered;

31 (E) How the school district will provide special education and related services for eligible
32 youths with disabilities who have an individualized education program or will provide neces-
33 sary accommodations and plans for eligible youths who qualify under section 504 of the Re-
34 habilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794);

35 (F) How the school district will ensure that eligible youths receive appropriate in-person
36 guidance or support; and

37 (G) How the school district will record and report performance measures for purposes
38 of accountability, including longitudinal monitoring of student progress and post-secondary
39 education and employment readiness.

40 (7) The Department of Education and Youth Development Division shall provide technical
41 assistance to school districts choosing to provide youth reengagement programs.

42 (8)(a) The State Board of Education and the Youth Development Council shall coordinate
43 to adopt rules under this section.

44 (b) When adopting rules under this section, the board and the division shall consult with
45 the Education and Workforce Policy Advisor, post-secondary institutions of education and

1 **community-based organizations that have previously offered youth reengagement programs,**
 2 **providers of online courses and programs and education service districts.**

3 **(c) The rules must provide a method for an eligible youth to participate in a youth re-**
 4 **engagement program if a program is not provided by the school district in which the eligible**
 5 **youth is a resident.**

6 **(9) Nothing in this section affects the authority of a school district to directly offer youth**
 7 **reengagement programs or other educational services for eligible youths.**

8 **SECTION 2.** ORS 417.847 is amended to read:

9 417.847. (1) The Youth Development Council is established.

10 (2) The council is established for the purpose of overseeing a unified system that provides ser-
 11 vices to school-age children through youth 24 years of age in a manner that supports educational
 12 success, focuses on crime prevention, reduces high risk behaviors and is integrated, measurable and
 13 accountable. The council shall provide direction to the Youth Development Division.

14 (3) The council consists of no fewer than 15 members who are appointed by the Governor. The
 15 Governor shall ensure that membership of the council satisfies any federal requirements for mem-
 16 bership of a state advisory committee on juvenile justice, and shall include tribal representation in
 17 the membership of the council.

18 (4) The council shall:

19 (a) Determine the availability of funding to support community-based youth development pro-
 20 grams, services and initiatives with demonstrated outcomes and strategic objectives established by
 21 the council by rule.

22 (b) Prioritize funding for services related to:

23 (A) The prevention of and intervention in the risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency and
 24 the promotion of protective factors that improve the health and well-being of children and youth,
 25 as supported by evidence-based program models and other research-based models; and

26 (B) The prevention of and intervention in gang violence and gang involvement.

27 **(c) Administer and coordinate the statewide youth reengagement system described in**
 28 **section 1 of this 2019 Act.**

29 (5) The council may:

30 (a) Enter into performance-based intergovernmental agreements with regional and county enti-
 31 ties, and tribal governments, to contract for the provision of youth development programs, services
 32 and initiatives that will achieve demonstrated outcomes and strategic objectives established by the
 33 council by rule.

34 (b) Determine the means by which services to children and youth may be provided effectively
 35 and efficiently across multiple programs to improve the academic and social outcomes of children
 36 and youth.

37 (c) Assess state programs and services related to youth development and training, and identify
 38 methods by which programs and services may be coordinated or consolidated.

39 (d) Establish common academic and social indicators to support attainment of goals established
 40 by the council.

41 (e) Establish common program outcome measurements and coordinate data collection across
 42 multiple programs and services.

43 (f) Ensure implementation of best practices that:

44 (A) Are evidence based;

45 (B) Are culturally, gender and age appropriate;

1 (C) Address individual risk factors;

2 (D) Build upon factors that improve the health and well-being of children and youth; and

3 (E) Include tribal best practices.

4 (6) The Governor may designate one member of the council to serve as the chairperson or, if the
5 Governor chooses not to designate a chairperson, the council may elect one of its members to serve
6 as chairperson.

7 (7) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the council may adopt rules
8 necessary for the administration of the laws that the council is charged with administering.

9 (8) The council shall coordinate and collaborate with the Chief Education Office as provided by
10 section 1, chapter 519, Oregon Laws 2011.

11 **SECTION 3.** ORS 417.847, as amended by section 63, chapter 774, Oregon Laws 2015, and sec-
12 tion 36, chapter 17, Oregon Laws 2017, is amended to read:

13 417.847. (1) The Youth Development Council is established.

14 (2) The council is established for the purpose of overseeing a unified system that provides ser-
15 vices to school-age children through youth 24 years of age in a manner that supports educational
16 success, focuses on crime prevention, reduces high risk behaviors and is integrated, measurable and
17 accountable. The council shall provide direction to the Youth Development Division.

18 (3) The council consists of no fewer than 15 members who are appointed by the Governor. The
19 Governor shall ensure that membership of the council satisfies any federal requirements for mem-
20 bership of a state advisory committee on juvenile justice, and shall include tribal representation in
21 the membership of the council.

22 (4) The council shall:

23 (a) Determine the availability of funding to support community-based youth development pro-
24 grams, services and initiatives with demonstrated outcomes and strategic objectives established by
25 the council by rule.

26 (b) Prioritize funding for services related to:

27 (A) The prevention of and intervention in the risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency and
28 the promotion of protective factors that improve the health and well-being of children and youth,
29 as supported by evidence-based program models and other research-based models; and

30 (B) The prevention of and intervention in gang violence and gang involvement.

31 **(c) Administer and coordinate the statewide youth reengagement system described in**
32 **section 1 of this 2019 Act.**

33 (5) The council may:

34 (a) Enter into performance-based intergovernmental agreements with regional and county enti-
35 ties, and tribal governments, to contract for the provision of youth development programs, services
36 and initiatives that will achieve demonstrated outcomes and strategic objectives established by the
37 council by rule.

38 (b) Determine the means by which services to children and youth may be provided effectively
39 and efficiently across multiple programs to improve the academic and social outcomes of children
40 and youth.

41 (c) Assess state programs and services related to youth development and training, and identify
42 methods by which programs and services may be coordinated or consolidated.

43 (d) Establish common academic and social indicators to support attainment of goals established
44 by the council.

45 (e) Establish common program outcome measurements and coordinate data collection across

1 multiple programs and services.

2 (f) Ensure implementation of best practices that:

3 (A) Are evidence based;

4 (B) Are culturally, gender and age appropriate;

5 (C) Address individual risk factors;

6 (D) Build upon factors that improve the health and well-being of children and youth; and

7 (E) Include tribal best practices.

8 (6) The Governor may designate one member of the council to serve as the chairperson or, if the
9 Governor chooses not to designate a chairperson, the council may elect one of its members to serve
10 as chairperson.

11 (7) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the council may adopt rules
12 necessary for the administration of the laws that the council is charged with administering.

13 **SECTION 4.** ORS 341.481 is amended to read:

14 341.481. (1) A district shall admit high school graduates who are residents of Oregon **or who**
15 **are participating in a youth reengagement program under section 1 of this 2019 Act** and may
16 admit other residents who, in the judgment of the administration of the district, are capable of
17 profiting from the instruction offered in a specific course or program without regard to age. In the
18 case of a student younger than 16 years of age, the college administration shall make the final de-
19 termination.

20 (2) Districts may also admit persons who are not residents of the district or of the state, in-
21 cluding persons who are not citizens of the United States, if such admission is considered suitable.

22 (3) Upon application of a qualified high school student residing in this state and upon agreement
23 between the district and the school district in which the student resides, the student may be ad-
24 mitted to the community college.

25 (4) Any district may contract with another district to admit students of either college to the
26 college of the other.

27 **SECTION 5.** ORS 339.515 is amended to read:

28 339.515. (1) In order to meet the goals described in ORS 339.510, the Department of Education
29 shall develop a system of uniform reporting and shall assist school districts in establishing such
30 systems, with appropriate allowances being made for the size of districts and their existing reporting
31 systems. **The system shall take into account youths participating in a youth reengagement**
32 **program, as described by section 1 of this 2019 Act or as otherwise described by standards**
33 **prescribed by the State Board of Education by rule, and shall ensure to the extent practica-**
34 **ble that the system does not provide a disincentive to school districts to reengage youths.**

35 (2) The department shall provide training and technical assistance to school district personnel
36 so that, statewide, the student accounting system produces uniform and accurate reports.

37