

HB 2945 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/16, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to ensure that students are provided with classwork, access to courses, transportation, support services, and meals if subjected to suspension or expulsion. Requires school districts to submit report to Department of Education (ODE) annually about the district's discipline, suspensions, and expulsions. Requires data to be disaggregated by grade and race and to include the number of days a student was removed from class. Requires ODE to assist school districts determined to disproportionately impose discipline in developing and implementing a plan to impose discipline more equitably. Allows ODE to require districts to cease imposing out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experiences of students subjected to exclusionary discipline
- Needs of students to maintain connections
- Impact of meal programs
- Disparate discipline

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes the ability of the Oregon Department of Education to require school districts to cease imposing out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.

BACKGROUND:

Data published by the Oregon Department of Education indicate that in the 2018-2019 school year, Oregon's schools imposed a total of 732 expulsions, 23,147 out-of-school suspensions, and 13,080 in-school suspensions. These totals include only those districts with totals in each category of 7 or greater. The data are not disaggregated by race, gender, or grade level and are available only as district totals. The majority of disciplinary incidents (20,159) are listed as resulting from disruptive behavior, followed by physical assaults (8,060), and substance abuse (6,221). Smaller numbers of disciplinary incidents resulted from property crimes (1,215), other (885), weapons possession (684), and sexual assault (113). In total, grade-level figures for discipline incidents were:

- Kindergarten - 886 incidents
- First Grade - 1,045 incidents
- Second Grade - 1,099 incidents
- Third Grade - 1,238 incidents
- Fourth Grade - 1,476 incidents
- Fifth Grade - 2,033 incidents
- Sixth Grade - 4,597 incidents
- Seventh Grade - 5,363 incidents
- Eighth Grade - 5,648 incidents
- Ninth Grade - 4,613 incidents
- Tenth Grade - 4,184 incidents
- Eleventh Grade - 3,047 incidents
- Twelfth Grade - 2, 128 incidents