

SB 743 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/17/21

Action: Do pass and refer to Finance and Revenue by prior reference.

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires separate calculation of weighted average daily membership (ADMw) for virtual public charter schools if school district's average daily membership (ADM) is calculated without virtual public charter school decreases compared to the prior school year. Modifies ADMw calculation for school districts that sponsor virtual public charter schools and for virtual public charter schools. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- State School Fund system of weights
- Purpose of extended weighted average daily membership (ADMw)
- Challenges of ADMw funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's school districts are primarily funded through distributions from the State School Fund. The amount of money each school district is allocated from the State School Fund is based on a formula that takes into account the total number of students attending school in that district (average daily membership, or ADM), the particular needs of the student population (weighted average daily membership, or ADMw), and the school district's available local revenues. The formula uses the higher of the current year's ADMw or prior year's ADMw. This practice is referred to as extended ADMw. Due to the number of children who enrolled in virtual charter schools for the 2020-2021 school year but may return to their brick and mortar schools for the 2021-2022 school year, virtual charter schools and the districts that sponsor them will likely see a significant increase in their state school fund allocations for the 2021-2022 school year.

Senate Bill 743 modifies the ADMw calculation for virtual charter schools and the districts that sponsor them in order to moderate enrollment fluctuations that occurred as a result of COVID-19.