

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2408**

Ordered by the House April 10  
Including House Amendments dated April 10

Sponsored by Representative NERON; Representative MORGAN (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.

*[Directs Department of Education to conduct study on meeting students' behavioral health needs and to report results of study to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to education by September 1, 2021.]*

*[Sunsets December 31, 2021.]*

*[Declares emergency, effective on passage.]*

**Directs Southern Oregon University to develop and administer student behavioral health credentialing pilot program. Prescribes requirements for program.**

**Sunsets December 31, 2023.**

**Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to student behavioral health; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) Southern Oregon University shall develop and administer a student behavioral health credentialing pilot program. To the extent practicable, the university shall enable at least 100 individuals to receive credentialing under the pilot program by June 30, 2023.**

**(2) Training for the student behavioral health credentialing pilot program shall:**

**(a) Advance the behavioral health skill level of school district staff and of individuals interested in entering the workforce for student behavioral health;**

**(b) Align with standards for the student health credentialing pilot program to ensure predictability is provided for mental health care providers, school districts and other employers of individuals who receive training; and**

**(c) Be coordinated and provided by:**

**(A) Southern Oregon University;**

**(B) The education service district that serves Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties; and**

**(C) Mental health care providers in Jackson, Josephine and Klamath Counties.**

**(3)(a) The university shall establish standards by which financial assistance is made available under the pilot program for the following:**

**(A) Tuition costs and other costs incurred in relation to training and credentialing;**

**(B) Staffing costs incurred by employers while individuals attend training; and**

**(C) Costs incurred by providers of training.**

**(b) When providing financial assistance under this subsection, priority shall be given to**

**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 enable the following to receive training and credentialing:

2 (A) Early childhood educators;

3 (B) Classroom assistants and other school district staff from kindergarten through grade  
4 12; and

5 (C) Behavioral health workers interested in assisting students.

6 (4) The university shall report on the pilot program to the interim committees of the  
7 Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 1, 2023. The report may  
8 include recommendations for legislation and for methods of providing student behavioral  
9 health credentialing and training throughout this state.

10 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2023.

11 SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
12 ated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for distribution to Southern Oregon  
13 University, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of  
14 \$100,000, which shall be expended for the pilot program described in section 1 of this 2021  
15 Act.

16 SECTION 4. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
17 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect  
18 July 1, 2021.