

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2962**

Ordered by the House April 2  
Including House Amendments dated April 2

Sponsored by Representatives OWENS, ALONSO LEON; Representatives DRAZAN, SMITH DB, WEBER, WRIGHT  
(at the request of former Representative Cheri Helt)

**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.

*[Requires each school district to evaluate instructional needs of students of school district as result of school closures due to COVID-19 and to report summaries of evaluations to Department of Education.]*

*[Directs department to produce statewide summary of evaluations and to report results of summary to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to education.]*

*[Sunsets December 31, 2021.]*

**Directs Legislative Policy and Research Director to conduct study to collect and interpret data to enable legislators to develop understanding of students' instructional needs caused by school closures due to COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Sunsets June 30, 2022.**

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to student instructional needs as the result of COVID-19; and declaring an emergency.

3       Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic hit Oregon last year, causing public school instruction to be  
4 shifted to distance learning in March 2020; and

5       Whereas for over a year, a concerning percentage of Oregon's children have been unable to ef-  
6 fectively engage in distance learning because of lack of access, or lack of adequate access, to the  
7 Internet and to technology necessary to make online learning possible; and

8       Whereas the inability to effectively engage in distance learning has heightened existing inequi-  
9 ties between students, as students who lacked adequate resources could not benefit from available  
10 online learning opportunities; and

11       Whereas the disruption of traditional schooling over the last year provides an opportunity for  
12 local and state educational leaders to reimagine schools in ways that can transform learning for  
13 students and teachers; and

14       Whereas this is the moment for legislators to work in partnership with the Department of Edu-  
15 cation, school districts, education service districts, families and communities to evaluate and learn  
16 from the past year and to identify what can be done to build a more equitable educational future  
17 for all students; and

18       Whereas an equitable educational future may include providing students with opportunities for  
19 tutoring, small group support or summer learning; and

20       Whereas it is important to identify the learning areas that can and should be addressed, in-  
21 cluding accelerated learning programs, summer programs and other strategies and resources that  
22 can help guide and shape program planning and school-related decisions; now, therefore,

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

2 **SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall conduct a study to**  
3 **collect and interpret data to enable legislators to develop an understanding of students' in-**  
4 **structional needs caused by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:**

5 (a) **The barriers to student success caused by virtual and hybrid learning models;**

6 (b) **The overall impact that distance learning had on student achievement, student well-**  
7 **being and historical student achievement gaps; and**

8 (c) **Any disproportionate impacts on underrepresented student groups.**

9 (2) **The study conducted under this section shall review:**

10 (a) **Student academic performance and social and emotional well-being, as determined**  
11 **based on assessment data and other measures.**

12 (b) **Characteristics of students who were unable or unwilling to participate in distance**  
13 **learning, including identifying barriers to participation in distance learning.**

14 (c) **The distance learning experience for high-need students and students with disabilities,**  
15 **including:**

16 (A) **Reviewing the supports provided and the barriers experienced; and**

17 (B) **Determining if appropriate accommodations were made.**

18 (d) **The instructional benefits of distance learning for teachers and students, including**  
19 **identifying the unmeasured learning that occurred at home and outside of traditional school.**

20 (3) **When collecting and interpreting data under this section, the director shall seek and**  
21 **provide summaries based on disaggregated data of student groups, including students from**  
22 **racial or ethnic groups that have historically experienced academic disparities, students who**  
23 **have a disability, economically disadvantaged students, students from different geographic**  
24 **regions of this state, students who are parents and students who are English language**  
25 **learners.**

26 (4) **The study conducted under this section shall use multiple data points collected from**  
27 **the Department of Education, school districts and education service districts to:**

28 (a) **Provide a holistic and broad understanding of the current status of education in this**  
29 **state following distance learning caused by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic;**  
30 **and**

31 (b) **Establish a set of recommendations that can guide local and state leaders in decision**  
32 **making and in directing resources to students and communities in need.**

33 (5) **The director may employ an additional person necessary for the performance of the**  
34 **duties prescribed by this section. The director shall fix the duties and amount of compen-**  
35 **sation of a person employed as provided by this subsection.**

36 (6) **The director shall produce a summary of the study conducted under this section to**  
37 **enable state and local leaders to consider policy issues and to make policy decisions. The di-**  
38 **rector shall provide the summary to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly re-**  
39 **lated to education no later than February 1, 2022.**

40 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on June 30, 2022.**

41 **SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
42 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**  
43 **on its passage.**

44