



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

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**Colt Gill**

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## **Senate Bill 487 - Study on Talented & Gifted Students**

### **Senate Education**

**March 17, 2021**

Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). I am submitting the following information on SB 487 for your consideration. ODE has no position on this bill.

### **Current Law**

[ORS 343.409](#) – School districts shall provide special educational programs and services as described in [ORS 343.395](#) (4)(c), (d), (e), and rules adopted by the board.

### **Senate Bill 487**

The bill directs ODE to conduct a study to identify inclusive and effective instructional practices of gifted students. This would provide an overview of instructional strategies and pedagogy throughout the state by district, region, and student demographics. Examine district level and other state education agency (SEAs) policies, professional development opportunities, and procedures that cultivate effective classroom level services and/or programs. Observe equitable instructional practices of Talented and Gifted (TAG) students as well as historically underrepresented students not yet identified as TAG.

Districts often reach out to state leaders asking to connect with other districts (similar in size) who instruct TAG students in accordance to OAR standards. There is also considerable variability of how districts fund TAG. There are districts that fund \$0/TAG students and others that fund hundreds of dollars per TAG student. This study would allow an examination of the effectiveness of programs and services between districts with funding as a consideration. Without this study, there are more unknowns than knowns about effective, high leverage, and equitable instructional practices, and identification in our districts

### **Suggestions to Improve the Bill**

In order to produce a meaningful study, ODE requests the timeline be extended to September 15, 2022. Otherwise, ODE does not have the capacity to produce the report by September 15, 2021 and will require a position to produce the study with the current timeframe.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Ventura