

HB 2646 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates program within Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Statewide School Safety and Prevention System to train school employees on signs and symptoms of, relevant services and resources for, and appropriate responses to mental illness, psychiatric or psychological disorder, depression or substance abuse disorder. Requires ODE to contract with nationally recognized nonprofit organization to provide training. Requires school districts to include designated mental health point of contact in their comprehensive plan on student suicide prevention.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Statewide School Safety and Prevention Program, established in the 2019 Student Success Act (HB 3427), is administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and currently consists of assistance to school districts and education service districts (ESDs) with:

1. Decreasing acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying;
2. Decreasing youth suicidal behavior through early intervention by safety and prevention specialists;
3. Implementing a student safety assessment system.

HB 2646 adds a fourth aspect to that system by requiring ODE to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide mental health and substance abuse training directly to school employees.

SB 52 (2019), also known as Adi's Act, requires each school district to adopt a comprehensive district plan on student suicide prevention that identifies school officials responsible for responding to reports of suicidal risk, procedures for suicide prevention and intervention, and training materials available to school employees. HB 2646 adds a designated mental health point of contact and ODE training to the requirements of that comprehensive district plan.

HB 2646 requires ODE to train school employees in responding to mental illness and substance abuse disorder, and requires school districts to identify a mental health point of contact and the ODE training program to its comprehensive plan on suicide prevention.