

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Expands ASPIRE programs to include career pathway options.

Requires ASPIRE programs to work directly with community-based organizations and other entities with experience serving historically underserved communities. Permits programs to award grants or other support to these organizations and entities.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to ASPIRE programs; amending ORS 348.500.

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

SECTION 1. ORS 348.500 is amended to read:

348.500. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission may establish Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) to provide information about financial aid, *[and]* education, *[and]* training **and career pathway** options beyond high school to students in Oregon schools and colleges. The goals of the programs are to:

(a) Provide mentoring and resources to help students access education and training beyond high school;

(b) Help Oregon schools build a sustainable community of volunteer mentors; *[and]*

(c) Educate students and families about the scholarship application process and other options for paying for post-secondary education[.]; **and**

(d) Encourage the completion of a college or career pathway.

(2) The programs shall bring together students, school staff, community volunteers and parents to help students overcome obstacles to their contin-

1 uing education. The programs may provide training, technical assistance and
2 other resources to Oregon middle schools, high schools and colleges on how
3 to establish a volunteer-based program. Adult volunteers who are trained
4 through the program may provide mentoring, training and encouragement to
5 students about post-secondary options and financial aid.

6 (3) Each year, the programs shall provide financial aid instruction to
7 middle school, high school and college students and make the instruction
8 available to the students' families. The instruction should focus on areas of
9 academic interest or career opportunities identified as particularly relevant
10 to the students and provide information on apprenticeships or technical and
11 occupational career pathways, with a focus on local apprenticeships or local
12 technical and occupational career pathways.

13 (4) The financial aid instruction required under subsection (3) of this
14 section must outline:

15 (a) The different types of student loans that are available to students at-
16 tending post-secondary institutions of education;

17 (b) The potential use of individual development accounts established un-
18 der ORS 458.675 to 458.700 to pay for post-secondary education; and

19 (c) The short-term and long-term economic impacts of each type of student
20 loan or individual development account.

21 **(5)(a) The programs shall work directly with community-based or-**
22 **ganizations and other entities with experience serving historically**
23 **underserved communities in order to provide these communities with**
24 **information and resources designed to encourage college and career**
25 **readiness and to increase the participation of students from these**
26 **communities in college and career training.**

27 **(b) The programs may provide grants or other support to organiza-**
28 **tions and entities described in paragraph (a) of this subsection for the**
29 **purpose of delivering culturally competent, multilingual programming**
30 **and training opportunities.**

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