

Senate Bill 1045

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER

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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to review department's statutes, rules and internal policies to identify how best to incorporate suggestions made by Secretary of State following audit of education in this state.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to improvements in student academic performance as a result of improvements in education
3 governance; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall review the department's statutes,**
6 **rules and internal policies to identify how best to incorporate suggestions made by the Sec-**
7 **retary of State in audit report 2022-16, "K-12 Education-Systemic Risk Report."**

8 **(2) Among the areas the department must consider are:**

9 **(a) Improvements in performance monitoring and support, including improvements in the**
10 **department's:**

11 **(A) Effectiveness in monitoring a recipient's use of grants and other financial assistance**
12 **and the department's effectiveness in providing interventions or other support when needed**
13 **to promote school district or contractor success, as applied to state and federal school im-**
14 **provement initiatives that include distributions from the Student Investment Account and**
15 **supports available under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of**
16 **1965.**

17 **(B) Work in understanding and responding to performance data, including encouraging**
18 **the collaboration of department staff who provide data solutions, analysis and reports and**
19 **supporting that staff in monitoring and measuring the performance of school districts and**
20 **initiating department response when school districts become in need of assistance.**

21 **(C) Oversight of alternative schools and online schools, including identifying statutory**
22 **changes needed to ensure strong performance standards are established for providers of al-**
23 **ternative schools and online schools, with an emphasis on providers of statewide and regional**
24 **online schools.**

25 **(D) Staffing levels, and making a determination of whether staffing levels are adequate**
26 **to monitor grant and school district performance and to support school districts and schools**
27 **in improving performance.**

28 **(E) Ability to collect data from school districts on course grades and specific credits at-**
29 **tained by students in grades 6 through 12, including the identification of the needs for any**
30 **additional funding or statutory changes.**

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 (b) Improvement in transparency on results and challenges, including requiring and
2 supporting thorough department reporting to:

3 (A) The Legislative Assembly and the State Board of Education for the purposes of
4 highlighting school improvement progress and challenges to effective implementation of
5 school improvement policies, including concerns raised by school districts and relevant
6 stakeholders.

7 (B) The Legislative Assembly for the purpose of communicating the results, or the fact
8 that results have not yet been measured, of key department programs, including programs
9 and initiatives funded through the Fund for Student Success, the High School Graduation and
10 College and Career Readiness Act, Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education
11 Act of 1965, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802) and through
12 any additional grants aimed at student success and equity, including the statewide education
13 plans and the English language learner program.

14 (c) Improvements in spending scrutiny and guidance, including ensuring the department
15 has necessary authority and resources to:

16 (A) Provide more analysis of effective and efficient school district spending and to pro-
17 vide additional information and useful tools for school districts to benchmark and evaluate
18 their spending, including ensuring the department provides sufficient details supporting the
19 most substantial findings in the report issued by the Quality Education Commission under
20 ORS 327.506.

21 (B) Monitor and improve the depth and effectiveness of the department's interactions
22 with school districts on spending.

23 (C) Work with school districts and other relevant stakeholders to enhance transparency
24 and analysis of school district spending, develop academic return on investment models and
25 increase financial training for school district administrators.

26 (d) Improvements in establishing clear, enforceable school district standards, including
27 the department's ability to:

28 (A) Monitor and support improvements in the standards used by the department to de-
29 termine if a school district is nonstandard under ORS 327.103, including ensuring that stan-
30 dards provide clarity and enforceability and the department provides assurance and support
31 efforts under the process required by ORS 327.103.

32 (B) Provide sufficient staff to build a robust assurance effort that supports and mean-
33 ingfully monitors school districts in complying with statewide standards and ensures com-
34 pliance with the statewide standards.

35 (e) Improvements in providing governance and funding stability, including policy planning
36 by the department that includes:

37 (A) Developing a comprehensive plan of programs to improve education for kindergarten
38 through grade 12, the development of which must include the involvement of student popu-
39 lations that will be served by the programs and a thorough understanding of the funding,
40 scale and school district reporting requirements, performance measurement requirements
41 and performance expectations that will be imposed over time, with a focus on programs that
42 support struggling schools and vulnerable students.

43 (B) Using the comprehensive plan developed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph
44 to ensure that new initiatives and requirements are aligned with existing efforts of the de-
45 partment related to school improvement, and tracking the number of new programs intro-

1 duced each legislative session for the purposes of fostering coordinated action at the
2 department and reducing duplication and administrative burdens on the department and
3 school districts.

4 (C) Requiring programs to have strong performance measurement plans and robust in-
5 terim updates, combined with incremental improvements, the maintenance of adequate
6 long-term funding and the provision of adequate time for meaningful results.

7 (3) When considering the areas identified in subsection (2) of this section, the department
8 shall identify how best to communicate with the Legislative Assembly, including:

9 (a) The frequency and content of reports related to performance monitoring and the
10 provision of support to school districts;

11 (b) The identification of any statutory changes that are needed to clarify or strengthen
12 the department's authority; and

13 (c) The identification of additional appropriations required by the department to ade-
14 quately satisfy staffing needs.

15 **SECTION 2.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
16 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
17 July 1, 2023.

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