

SB 948 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows local school boards to provide play-based learning during the school day for students in prekindergarten through grade five. It also requires the Oregon Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Early Learning and Care and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, to provide professional development about play-based learning to child care providers and teachers in prekindergarten through grade five.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of play-based learning
- Need for children to be active
- Problems and challenges of current system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

At least three other states have laws relating to play-based learning. New Hampshire enacted a requirement for play-based learning in House Bill 1499 (2018). Oklahoma enacted House Bill 1569 in 2021, which prohibited school districts from disallowing teachers to employ play-based learning in their classrooms. In Connecticut, Substitute House Bill 6880, enacted in 2023, included provisions requiring local school boards to provide for play-based learning for kindergarten students.