

HB 2508 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and implement a standardized method for transferring student information from school districts to ODE. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

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

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

Detailed Summary

Section 1

Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and implement a standardized method for school districts, education service districts, and the Department to share student data. Establishes requirements for the standardized method, including facilitating student transfers, the compatibility of health records, and schools' efforts to bill Medicaid; minimizing reporting burdens and duplication; ensuring ODE access; and establishing statewide data standards. Describes the minimal types of information that must be included, requires ODE to provide training, and allows the State Board of Education to enact related rules.

Section 2

Requires ODE to establish data standards, allows ODE to enter into an intergovernmental agreement or a contract to develop the standardized method, and requires ODE to ensure both the reduction or elimination of redundancies and compatibility with systems already in use by local districts. Establishes requirements for the transition to the new method of data-sharing and requires ODE to convene a technical advisory committee. Outlines the committee's membership and responsibilities.

Section 3

Requires appointments to the technical advisory committee to be made by December 1, 2025.

Section 4

Repeals Section 2 on July 1, 2035.

Sections 5 through 10

Make conforming amendments to existing sections of state law.

Section 11

Repeals ORS 326.580, which was originally enacted in 2001 to establish electronic student records in Oregon.

Section 12

Makes sections 6 through 11 operative on July 1, 2035.

Section 13

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2023, the House Education Committee considered House Bill 4078, which would have required a study and a task force relating to a statewide student information system. During the 2024 interim, the House Education Committee convened a workgroup to discuss challenges related to student data. During the course of that workgroup, representatives of the Oregon Student Information System steering committee, a group comprising school district and education service district chief information officers, presented information about their efforts to establish a statewide contract for student information systems and pilot electronic transfers of student records among school districts. They described how their efforts had driven down the costs of student information systems for Oregon districts, how most districts were using one of two systems, and how districts face significant challenges in submitting required data to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

House Bill 2508 requires ODE to establish data standards and modernize the means by which it receives data from school districts. The measure does not require school districts or ODE to collect any new types of information that are not already being collected.