

SB 786 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires public universities to award academic credit comparable to introductory communications, public speaking or argumentation courses to incoming students who participated in classes or programs affiliated with national organizations related to business, agricultural education, or speech and debate. The measure requires high schools to certify that former students have met the requirements for the college credits. It prohibits public colleges and universities from requiring certain introductory courses for students that meet specified requirements. The measure allows the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the State Board of Education to enact rules to implement the measure. The measure takes effect in the 2026-2027 academic year.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[Oregon colleges and universities](#) can award academic credits to students who complete dual credit programs, take International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement tests, and take college courses with partnering institutions.

In Oregon, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) provide leadership opportunities to students. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a national organization that prepares future generations to feed a growing population. In [Oregon](#), there are 15,075 members of the FFA across 120 chapters. The Future Business Leaders of America is another CTSO that prepares students for careers in business, management, entrepreneurship. According to the [Oregon FBLA](#), there are over 2000 members in over 75 schools.

Speech and debate is an activity where high schoolers compete in a range of debate and speaking events. There are there are about 90 speech and debate teams or leagues that compete in [OSAA sanctioned competitions](#).