

HB 3444 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies funding laws related to charter schools. It requires school districts to pay non-virtual public charter schools 95 percent of the district's general purpose grant for students enrolled in the school. It makes public charter schools eligible for certain local, state, and federal funding, including student achievement grants and transportation grants.

Detailed Summary

- Requires school districts to pay public charter schools 95 percent of the amount of the school district's general purpose grant per weighted average daily membership (ADMw).
- Allows local districts to pay virtual public charter schools 80 percent of the amount of the school district's general purpose grant per weighted average daily membership for students in grades kindergarten through eight, and 95 percent for students in grades 9 through 12.
- Allows the State Board to pay virtual public charter schools that it sponsors 90 percent of the amount of the school district's general purpose grant per ADMw for grades kindergarten through eight and 95 percent for grades 9 through 12.
- Allows local districts to retain funds not paid to the public charter school instead of transferring 50 percent to the Oregon Department of Education.
- Requires charter school sponsors to spend retained funds for administrative costs relating to the public charter schools.
- Entitles public charter schools to receive:
 - local, state or federal moneys distributed for the benefit of the public charter school;
 - local, state, or federal moneys distributed to all the public schools in the district; and
 - local revenues available to the district's nonchartered public schools, except for virtual public charter schools.
- Removes restrictions on the eligibility of public charter schools for Student Investment Account grants.
- Requires school districts that receive student achievement grants and transportation grants for public charter schools to distribute funds to the public charter schools based on the same criteria used to transfer funds to any nonchartered public school in the district.
- Allows charter schools' transportation costs to be approved for the purposes of the State School Fund distribution.
- Declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment requires school districts and the State Board of Education to pay all public charter schools 95 percent of the amount of the school district's general purpose grant per weighted average daily membership (ADMw). It allows local districts to retain funds not paid to the public charter school instead of transferring 50 percent to the Oregon Department of Education. The amendment requires charter school sponsors to spend retained funds for administrative costs relating to the public charter schools. The measure entitles public charter

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schools to receive:

- local, state or federal moneys distributed for the benefit of the public charter school;
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- local revenues available to the district's nonchartered public schools, except for virtual public charter schools.

The amendment removes restrictions on the eligibility of all public charter schools, including virtual public charter schools, for Student Investment Account grants. It removes the restriction on counting virtual charter school students in a school district's application for a Student Investment Account grant. It also removes the restriction on virtual public charter schools accessing early literacy success grants.

-2 The amendment requires school districts and the State Board of Education to pay all public charter schools 95 percent of the amount of the school district's general purpose grant per weighted average daily membership (ADMw). It allows local districts to retain funds not paid to the public charter school instead of transferring 50 percent to the Oregon Department of Education. The amendment requires charter school sponsors to spend retained funds for administrative costs relating to the public charter schools. The measure entitles public charter schools to receive:

- local, state or federal moneys distributed for the benefit of the public charter school;
- local, state, or federal moneys distributed to all the public schools in the district; and
- local revenues available to the district's nonchartered public schools, except for virtual public charter schools.

The amendment restores certain population-based restrictions on the eligibility of public charter schools for Student Investment Account Grants. It removes restrictions on the eligibility of virtual public charter schools for Student Investment Account grants. It also removes the restriction on counting virtual charter school students in a school district's application for a Student Investment Account grant. It also removes the restriction on virtual public charter schools accessing early literacy success grants.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, charter schools are comprehensive public schools operated by groups of parents, teachers, and/or community members as semi-autonomous schools of choice. A charter school operates under a performance contract or "charter" between the members of the charter school community and the sponsoring board of education. Oregon charter schools may be sponsored by school districts or the State Board of Education. Charter schools must offer a comprehensive education that includes curriculum covering all Oregon academic content standards and courses necessary to allow students to meet high school diploma requirements. This program is often implemented through education models, platforms, and schedules that differ from the traditional public school model.

Once a charter school is sponsored and approved for operation, the school receives money from the State School Fund as outlined in the charter school contract. Current law sets the minimum payment through a formula based on school enrollment. For students in K-8, that amount is at least 80 percent of the sponsoring school district's General Purpose Grant (per weighted average daily membership or ADMw), and 95 percent for students in grades 9-12.