

HB 3449 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/19, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure modifies the pilot program that was enacted in [House Bill 4084 \(2024\)](#). It requires the Department of Education (ODE) to collaborate with the Department of Human Services (DHS), requires grants to be made to school districts rather than individual schools, and limits the pilot programs to middle and high schools. The measure applies these changes to grants awarded prior to, on, or after the effective date, requires the State Board of Education to review with DHS any rules already adopted for the pilot program, and extends the timeline of the pilot programs to January 2, 2028. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenges implementing pilot program
- Needs of foster youth

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment removes the Department of Human Services from the measure.

BACKGROUND:

[House Bill 4084 \(2024\)](#) enacted a pilot program to improve graduation rates for foster youth at three schools. Initial funding came from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account to provide foster youth with access to educational advocates to provide guidance and educational support. An initial report is required by September 15, 2025 and a second report by September 15, 2027.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) began collecting [data on graduation rates](#) for foster children in the 2016-2017 cohort. Between that time and the 2020-2021 cohort, foster youth graduation rates ranged between 43.9 and 51.0 percent. In the same time period, graduation rates for the general student population cohorts ranged between 80.6 and 82.6 percent.