

SB 970 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure defines online and remote learning. It requires student enrollment in online learning programs or remote learning programs to be voluntary and prohibits school districts from unilaterally imposing an online or remote learning program on a student. It provides exceptions for out of school suspensions, temporary usage for behavioral assessments or behavioral intervention plans, and programs provided for a majority of students due to a public emergency.

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:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the [Oregon Department of Education](#), total virtual enrollment has increased from 12,115 in the 2016-2017 school year to 25,029 in the 2021-22 school year. Students enrolled in virtual schools have lower graduation rates with 58.3 percent graduating on time compared to the overall graduation rate of 80.6 percent in the 2020-2021 school year.

Oregon law does not currently define either online learning or remote learning. The Oregon Department of Education has issued [guidance](#) for establishing online and remote schools in Oregon to comply with both state and federal laws.