

SB 302 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Education to study the adequacy of the state's education system.

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 Replaces the measure. The amendment requires the Oregon Department of Education to conduct an audit of kindergarten assessments and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

From 2013 until the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregon's kindergarten assessment was administered each fall to incoming kindergartners to assess three core areas: early literacy, early mathematics, and interpersonal skills. The assessment was suspended during the pandemic. Since then, the Oregon Department of Education has redesigned the assessment, moving away from an assessment of the child's skills and knowledge and toward a model that is designed to connect educators and families and provide information about families' experiences prior to entering kindergarten. The new assessment uses open-ended questions so families can share their thoughts as well as questions that allow participants to select from a list of common responses. It was adopted by the State Board of Education in a rule change on February 16, 2023.

For the fall of 2019, the last year for which data is available, average scores for incoming kindergartners were 11 out of 16 in early mathematics numbers and operations, 14.3 out of 26 in upper case letter recognition, 11.6 out of 26 in lower case letter recognition, and 7.7 out of 26 in letter sounds recognition.