

SB 742 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies statutory provisions regulating abbreviated school days to allow parents or foster parents to consent to online or telephonic meetings, and allows for online or telephonic meetings if public health emergencies prohibit in-person meetings. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

Senate Vote: Passed. Ayes, 27; Nays 0.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Senate Bill 819 (2023)
- Needs of parents
- Convenience of electronic meetings

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2019, advocates for students with disabilities filed a class-action lawsuit in federal court, alleging that the State of Oregon had failed to ensure that students with disabilities had access to the educational opportunities guaranteed to them. At issue were instances of Oregon school districts placing students with disabilities onto shortened school days and the Oregon Department of Education's failure to take the steps necessary to ensure these students' rights to a free, appropriate public education were upheld. In June 2022, a court-ordered neutral fact-finder issued a report detailing their findings, including that there is no consistent use of signed parental permission, there are no mandated trainings provided by ODE, districts' record-keeping is often poor or neglected, the state has no effective or efficient way to gather data or monitor the use of shortened days, some districts withheld information, students are sometimes placed in permanent shortened-day programs, students are often required to "earn" a full school day, students often did not have any behavioral goals or a behavioral intervention plan, and in many cases, parental consent was not obtained.

The State Board enacted a General Supervision Rule in July 2022 (OAR 581-015-2015) that allows the department to monitor whether school districts are operating in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The rule is specific to programs for students with disabilities and allows the department to provide technical assistance, coaching, and professional development; to notify districts of any identified noncompliance within three months (or 30 days in certain cases); and to take any required corrective action. The rule requires districts to take specific actions and provides the department with the ability to withhold funds.

[Senate Bill 819 \(2023\)](#) enacted new requirements related to the placement of students with disabilities, or who may have disabilities, onto abbreviated school days.