

SB 894 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/24/25

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Sollman, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to work with the STEM Investment Council to review academic standards related to technology-based activities. Following the review, the measure requires ODE to develop and recommend standards for students to receive academic credit for competitive technology-based activities and to ensure that district resources and state grants are available to technology-based activities. The measure requires ODE and the Council to submit a report summarizing the review and standards to the State Board of Education and the Legislative Assembly by February 28, 2026. The measure takes effect on the 91st day after the legislature adjourns sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access for robotics organization to receive same credit opportunities as other activities.
- Impacts of STEM activities on student success.
- Ability for the robotics activities to receive similar funding.
- Resource issues for the STEM activities.
- Adding responsibilities to teachers.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

For a student to receive an Oregon Diploma, a student must complete 24 credits with those credits earned across nine different subject areas. School districts may allow students to receive academic credit by the following methods: classroom work, stand-alone assessment, collections of evidence or portfolio, and prior mastery. In addition, credits can be awarded through Applied Academic Credits program for courses completed through a career technical education course related to a credit subject area.