

HB 2374 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 04/01/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Elmer, Hartman, Javadi, McIntire, Nguyen H, Nosse, Ruiz, Scharf, Walters

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes the CARE Program within the Youth Development Division (YDD) to support families in improving school attendance and academic success and to assist families in reducing barriers that contribute to school absences and lack of basic needs. It directs YDD to award grants to counties or local entities to implement local CARE programs.

Detailed Summary

- Establishes the CARE Program within the Youth Development Division (YDD).
- Describes the purposes of the CARE program, including that the program
 - supports families in fostering a positive school-to-home connection that promotes school attendance and academic success;
 - provides a coordinated social service delivery system; and
 - reduces barriers that contribute to absence from school and a lack of basic needs.
- Directs YDD to award grants to counties or local entities to implement local CARE programs.
- Outlines the allowable uses of awarded grant funding, including to
 - advocate for participating families at school meetings and appointments to ensure access to culturally and linguistically relevant services;
 - provide education and support to participating families; and
 - assist families in applying for and accessing available resources.
- Directs school districts to refer students and families identified as needing attendance support to the nearest local CARE program for a needs assessment and services to help the student maintain regular school attendance.
- Allows YDD to adopt rules to implement the program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Chronic absenteeism is generally defined and measured as the percentage of students who miss 10 percent or more of school days, including both excused and unexcused absences. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) collects and calculates data on regular attendees, defined as students who attend more than 90 percent of the days they are enrolled in a school. In the 2023-24 school year, approximately 34.3 percent of students in Oregon were chronically absent ([ODE, 2024](#)). By comparison, in the 2018-19 school year, 20.4 percent of students were chronically absent ([ODE, 2019](#)).

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In recent years, Oregon has implemented several initiatives at the state-level to address rising rates of chronic absenteeism. In 2018, ODE launched the [Every Day Matters Campaign](#), which included a toolkit for educators and families with information and resources to help reduce chronic absenteeism. Every Day Matters also provides funds to Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and awards funding through the Integrated Community Partnership Grant program ([ODE, 2024](#)). Additionally, ODE distributes funds through the [Tribal Attendance Promising Practices](#) (TAPP) initiative to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism for American Indian/Alaska Native+ students.

At the local level, the [Umatilla County CARE Program](#) supports families by providing a coordinated and integrated social service delivery program to promote healthy, safety, education, and general well-being. CARE specialists meet with parents to identify services and support, and connect families with community partners. The Umatilla County CARE Program is a joint effort of Umatilla County, InterMountain ESD, and local school districts.