



Oregon

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Dr. Charlene Williams

Director of the Department of Education

HB 3037: Streamlining Grant Requirements

House Education Committee

March 5, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Zoe Larmer and I am the Government Relations Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3037, which will create minor but important statutory changes to help school districts, particularly small school districts, in reducing administrative burden and align some reporting requirements. It also makes small changes to Student Success Act funded grants.

Supporting Small School Districts

Nearly two-thirds of our 197 school districts are considered “small,” with enrollment under 1,650 students. ODE has been hearing a clear message from districts that they are feeling overwhelmed by the amount of administrative burden, leaving less time for direct support for students. The changes in HB 3037 would grant the State Board of Education and the Department the authority to make adjustments for small school districts when it comes to minimum grant awards and grant applications and reporting requirements, reducing paperwork. For small districts, who often have administrators and school staff wearing multiple hats, this reflects a small but crucial recognition of the differences in our education system across the state of Oregon.

Aligning Integrated Guidance

HB 3037 also contains changes related to funding and grants from the state, aligning grant programs and eligible grantees, especially in the grant programs related to ODE’s [Integrated Guidance](#). These changes include:

Making changes to the High School Success program

- Adds language allowing long term care or treatment facilities as eligible grantees.
- Changes the tiered funding requirements to High School Success, adjusting for the purpose of inflation.
- Adjusts the administrative set-aside to match the Student Investment Account, ensuring districts have enough funding to administer these programs.



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Updating the Early Indicator and Intervention Systems (EIS) Grant-in-Aid

- Defines “eligible recipient” to align with other Integrated Guidance grants.
- Updates the EIS formula to align with the Student Investment Account formula.

Making changes to the the Student Investment Account Grants

- Adds Oregon School for the Deaf and long term care or treatment facilities as eligible applicants.
- Clarifies the funding formula for Oregon School for the Deaf and long term care or treatment facilities.
- Establishes that long term care or treatment facilities are also eligible for the minimum funding floor.

English Language Learner Report

The final change of HB 3037 would move out the required date for school districts to post the report on English Language (EL) Learner funding to their website and share with their school board. Currently statute requires the EL legislative report to be shared annually by September 1st; however, most districts’ employees with this knowledge are not under contract during July and most of August, making it difficult to complete by September 1st. This change would move the requirement to be shared annually by December 1st.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact from ODE for any of the changes named in HB 3037. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and we welcome any questions you may have. We urge your support of HB 3037.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Larmer

Government Relations Director