

SB 1596 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon State Board of Education to allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for elementary school students.

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 28; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Joy in classrooms
- Benefits of play-based learning
- Need for statutory change or guidance from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
- Role of local school boards and the State Board of Education
- Local control and inconsistency across the state
- Teaching methods for different students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

State law gives the State Board of Education authority to set requirements for instructional time in administrative rule, with the exception of statutes requiring physical education (Oregon Revised Statute 329.496). The State Board of Education has enacted Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-2320, which outlines the requirements for instructional time at each grade level. For kindergarten through eighth grade, 900 hours of instructional time are currently required. Up to 60 of these hours can be used by school districts for teachers' professional development or for parent-teacher conferences, and up to 60 hours can be used for recess in full-day kindergarten programs (and 30 hours in half-day kindergarten programs).

Instructional time is currently defined in administrative rule as time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments that are designed to meet Common Curriculum Goals and academic content standards, and are working under the direction and supervision of a licensed teacher or instructor (see OAR 581-022-0102).