

A-Engrossed Senate Bill 1596

Ordered by the Senate February 13
Including Senate Amendments dated February 13

Sponsored by Senators FREDERICK, MANNING JR; Senators CAMPOS, GOLDEN, JAMA, PROZANSKI, WEBER, Representatives ANDERSEN, GAMBIA, HELM, ISADORE, MCINTIRE, NELSON, PHAM H, WISE (at the request of Oregon Public Education Network) (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Allows learning by playing to count towards time required by the State Board of Education. (Flesch Readability Score: 61.8).

Directs the State Board of Education to allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for students in kindergarten through grade five.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to play-based learning.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2026 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Free play" means activities that:

(A) Are performed by a child for self-amusement; and

(B) Are spontaneous, voluntary, unstructured and child-directed.

(b) "Guided play" means experiences that:

(A) Are under adult guidance; and

(B) Combine the child-directed nature of free play with a focus on learning outcomes.

(c) "Play-based learning" means learning that:

(A) Emphasizes free play or guided play; and

(B) Uses developmentally appropriate strategies that can be integrated into existing learning standards.

(2) Any rules adopted by the State Board of Education that prescribe requirements for instructional time shall allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for students in kindergarten through grade five.

(3) For the purpose of this section, play-based learning does not include participation in physical education that complies with the requirements of ORS 329.496 or recess.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.