



February 11, 2011

Key bills up for week of Feb. 14

Following are key bills scheduled for hearings next week. Tune into these hearings by going to www.leg.state.or.us/listn.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 14 - 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Room E, State Capitol

HB 2581 - First public hearing:

Clarifies and expands duties of Oregon Virtual School District.

HB 2301 - First public hearing:

Allows school district, group of school districts or education service districts to provide part-time online instruction or full-time online instruction.

Wednesday, February 16 - 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Room E, State Capitol

HB 2939 - First public hearing:

Prohibits use of mechanical restraint, chemical restraint or prone restraint on student in public education program.

Friday, February 18 - 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Room E, State Capitol

HB 2169 - First public hearing:

Excludes amount of local option taxes received by school district from description of Local Revenues for purposes of State School Fund distributions if 25 percent or more of students in school district are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under federal law.

HB 2651 - First public hearing:

Establishes requirement that school must be in school district that has ADMw of more than 150 to qualify as remote small elementary school or small high school.

HOUSE AND SENATE REVENUE COMMITTEES

Tuesday, February 15 - 8:00 a.m.

Hearing Room A, State Capitol

State Revenue Forecast

For more information on hearings, click on the [Hearing Schedule](#) from OSBA's homepage.

Senate Education Committee takes up attendance, full-day kindergarten, ESDs

This week, the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee held hearings on Senate Bills 246, 248, and 250. **Senate Bill 246** would require that children who enroll in school at age five or six would be subject to the attendance policies of their school district. **Senate Bill 248** would allow school districts to continue charging tuition for supplemental kindergarten programs and mandate that all school districts must offer full-day kindergarten beginning with the 2015-16 school year. **Senate Bill 250** would allow school districts to "opt out" of their education service district and receive their share of the ESD State School Fund allocation directly.

Oregon's compulsory school attendance law currently says that all children must attend public school at age seven, unless the student is home-schooled or attends private school. Under current law, five- and six-year-old students in kindergarten and first-grade classrooms are not subject to attendance and truancy policies of the district because they are not required to be at school. The committee heard that this can be very disruptive for the student, their classmates and the classroom teacher if irregular attendance ensues. **Senate Bill 246** does not change the compulsory attendance law; instead, it says that these five- and six-year-old students are subject to the same attendance rules and policies as students age seven and up. The intent is to have uniform truancy laws for all students, regardless of age. Parents of five- and six-year-olds may still withdraw them from school if they feel that their child is not ready for school.

During the 2009 Session, the Legislature established the Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee. The task of the committee was to provide recommendations to the Legislature on how to expand full-day kindergarten programs to all Oregon students. The majority of committee members recommended that Oregon mandate full-day kindergarten in all school districts beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Hillsboro School Board member and OSBA board member **Patti McLeod** was a member of the committee; she argued for the recommendation to include a separate appropriation to pay for the cost of full-day kindergarten. She also urged the committee to consider school districts' facility needs. OSBA Associate Executive Director Tricia Yates told the Senate committee that OSBA supports full-day kindergarten when it comes with a fully-funded appropriation and is implemented at the local district's option, but could not support **SB 248** which mandates full-day kindergarten with no additional funding.

Amid a flurry of bills aimed at changing the ESD structure in Oregon, **SB 250** would allow component school districts to "opt out" of their ESD and receive their share of the ESD state school funds directly. Districts that choose to opt out could spend those funds to provide services as they see fit. The Senate committee heard testimony for and against the bill from board members and superintendents across Oregon. Some said they could save money by opting out; others said that their ESD

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OSBA/COSA Legislative Day



Don't forget to register for our OSBA/COSA Legislative Day February 21. Dr. Nancy Golden, Governor Kitzhaber's Education Advisor, will be one of the keynote speakers during the breakfast. At lunch, Senator Richard Devlin, Ways and Means Committee co-chair, will address the group on the budget picture for Oregon.

Get tips and tools for your advocacy on public education priorities that you can deliver in the Capitol during your visit in Salem. Register at www.osba.org/legday.

Legislative Highlights

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could not provide economies of scale for low-incidence, high-cost services if school districts opt out. Parkrose School Board member and OSBA board member **James Woods** urged the committee to look at different ways of maximizing economies of scale to decrease costs and provide more services to students. Expect more hearings on the subject of ESDs in the coming weeks.

OSBA's legislative online services keep you informed

Track the status and progress of any bill in the Legislature in a flash from OSBA's homepage under Legislative Action Network. Click on [Bill Tracking](#) to find a specific bill by number or filter by topic or status, read a summary of any bill, see which OSBA staff to contact if you have questions, and much more. The listing is updated regularly, making it a powerful tool to keep you on top of what is happening in the legislature.

OSBA posts the [Hearing Schedule](#) so you will know exactly when a bill is up for public hearing. From the schedule you can easily access information about the bill including a summary, the hearing history, the complete text and link to live broadcast of the hearing. The legislative team also posts [Daily Updates](#) and blogs about the day's events at the Capitol.

In addition, you can get short messages on legislative issues on [Twitter](#); follow @OSBALegislative.

Republicans, Democrats share goals but different tactics for revitalizing Oregon

Last week the Senate and House Democrats and the House Republicans released their agendas for the 2011 Legislative Session. All are committed to helping Oregon's economic recovery.

House and Senate Democrats put strong emphasis on education, health care, creating jobs and protecting our most vulnerable citizens. Both recognize that budget challenges are front and center.

House Democrats tout rigorous "pay-as-you-go" standards for any new program, tax break or tax cut. Specific items aimed at education include repairs and retrofits to aging school facilities, stopping the downward spiral in K-12 funding, ensuring early childhood education, big expectations for high school students taking community college courses, Certificate of Work Readiness programs and college savings plans. The agenda is online at www.leg.state.or.us/housedemocrats.

Senate Democrats talk about budget challenges and the need for a "disciplined and pragmatic" agenda. Specifically, they want to help small businesses create jobs, protect investments made in early child-

hood education and look critically at tax credits to make sure they are helping Oregon's economy. They also stress their commitment to put partisan politics aside and focus on solutions for all Oregonians. The agenda is online at www.orsenatemajority.org/press-releases/senate-democrats-release-2011-legislative-agenda.

The House Republicans are also focused on job creation – and will work to reform government, improve education and keep Oregonians healthy and safe. Specifics include repealing Measure 67 and replacing it with a corporate minimum tax, dedicating money to the Rainy Day Fund and introducing PERS reform. Their education agenda includes reforms to increase accountability and performance, granting parents more power and choices in seeking a better education for their children and providing more certainty in Oregon's school funding process. The agenda is online at www.oregonhouserepublicans.org/files/2011_agenda.pdf.

The Senate Republican Caucus has not yet released their agenda.

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