



Senate Ed hears mandate relief bill

[Senate Bill 800](#), sponsored by Sen. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Beaverton) at the request of State Superintendent Susan Castillo and education coalition members, was heard by the Senate Education Committee this week. Committee members have all signed on as sponsors of the bill. SB 800, one of three key mandate relief bills, eliminates or revises 28 outdated or redundant state laws, including:

- Simplifying statewide, school and district report cards by putting some information on the Internet and allowing e-mailing of reports
- Repealing community service guideline requirements
- Eliminating state mandates relating to local school committees
- Eliminating duplicate report on race and ethnicity of high school graduates
- Eliminating curriculum requirements for the Irish Potato Famine, arms race and conflict resolution
- Eliminating requirement that districts record student dental certificates
- Eliminating requirement that districts withhold grade reports, diplomas and records of students who owe more than \$50
- Eliminating redundant and outdated requirements that superintendent distribute and prepare education laws

SB 800 builds on the work of the Mandate Relief Project (initiated by OSBA, in partnership with the Confederation of School Administrators, Oregon Education Association, Oregon School Employees Association, AFT-Oregon, Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and Oregon Department of Education) which met last summer to review recent and prospective state and federal mandates and identify those from which we would seek legislative relief this session. The group focused on state mandates, and reached consensus on three products: SB 800, SB 560 and HB 3370.

[SB 560](#), sponsored by Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose), reduces the paperwork burden on district continuous improvement plans, requiring only significant changes be submitted. This bill is currently in the Senate Education Committee; Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), chair, has indicated there will be a hearing but no date has been scheduled.

[HB 3370](#), sponsored by Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha) at the request of OSBA and other partners, is in the House Education Committee. This critical bill requires the Legislative Fiscal Office to prepare fiscal impact statements setting forth the effect of a bill on expenditures if the bill imposes a new duty or increased level of service on a school district or ESD. This gives the Legislature and school districts accurate, necessary information on which to base decisions and shares accountability. A hearing date has not been scheduled.

COSA and ODE continue to lead efforts on streamlining data systems and reporting and are currently conducting a separate review of Division 22 requirements.

OSBA Associate Executive Director Tricia Yates praised committee members for sponsoring the bill. "SB 800 has provisions to eliminate redundant or outdated laws; 12 save money or time for districts, and 18 do the same for ODE. While this may not result in large savings, every reduction in unnecessary reporting helps our district leaders redirect that valuable increment of staff time to a higher priority. Passage of SB 800 is the first of many steps to assist districts and ESDs in refocusing our collective, scarce resources to support student achievement." She urged the committee and the Legislature to advance all three bills in the mandate relief package.

Senate passes unfunded full-day K

The Senate on Thursday passed [Senate Bill 248](#), the full-day kindergarten bill, on a vote of 27 to 3, with Senators Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day), Brian Boquist (R-Dallas) and Chip Shields (D-Portland) voting no. The bill extends the applicability of current law that requires school districts to offer half-day kindergarten and allows school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten. **SB 248** requires school districts to offer full-day kindergarten beginning with the 2015-16 school year, but **adds no money** to the State School Fund to pay for the additional half-day program.

Senate Republican Leader Ferrioli spoke of the incontrovertible benefit of kindergarten, but told his Senate colleagues, "We're not paying for it; we are just kicking an unfunded mandate down the road." He referenced districts being forced to close schools due to budget cuts, and schools' struggles to provide a basic education to their students. "There is nothing wrong with SB 248 that \$100 million won't cure. Citizens will wonder why the Legislature didn't put the people's money where our mouth is," Ferrioli said.

Earlier this session, OSBA Associate Executive Director Tricia Yates told the Senate Education Committee of OSBA's support for full-day kindergarten, when accompanied by a separate, distinct appropriation and implemented at the district's option. She also shared OSBA members' concerns about pushing another unfunded mandate out into the future in the midst of budget cuts. This position, and a call for the Legislature to fund full-day kindergarten if passed, was previously shared by OSBA board member and Hillsboro school board member **Patti McLeod**, in her role as a member of the state Full-Day Kindergarten Advisory Committee. In that forum, McLeod discussed the additional operational costs that would be incurred at a time when districts are already cutting budgets, as well as potential facility costs for districts that do not currently have space for full-day kindergarten.

While SB 248 was originally slated to go to the Ways and Means Committee for additional deliberation, that referral was

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Budget Advocacy Alert

Your legislators need to hear from you about the budget being considered for your schools! OSBA, the Oregon Association of School Business Officials and the Confederation of School Administrators created a template for districts to fill in with your specific budget information. The template is designed to give the legislature information about budget impacts to districts across the state at various funding levels being discussed.

Access templates at www.oasbo.com; click on "Budget Scenarios Template." If you do not have a completed template, you can get the information required from your business official/superintendent. Use the completed template to talk with state legislators about your district's budget scenarios. For questions, contact Lori Sattenspiel, lsattenspiel@osba.org.

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Kindergarten – Continued

removed by Senate leadership and instead the bill passed the Senate Education Committee and went directly to the Senate floor for a vote.

Yates and Confederation of School Administrators Government Relations Director Chuck Bennett sent the following letter to senators prior to the floor vote:

The Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Confederation of School Administrators (COA) support full-day kindergarten when accompanied by a separate and distinct state appropriation and implemented at the school district's option. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 248, the full-day kindergarten bill, does not include any funding to support this new program, essentially imposing an unfunded, estimated \$100 million per year mandate on school districts.

SB 248 requires school districts to offer full-day kindergarten beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Passing and pushing an unfunded mandate into the future when schools are already \$1 billion short of funds required to pay for existing program levels would be unwise in the current budget environment. Currently, there are approximately 40,000 kindergartners in the state, funded through the school funding formula at .5 weight. By bringing these students to a full-time weight, SB 248 adds the equivalent of 20,000 students while adding zero to support their costs. This spreads the already insufficient state school fund even thinner, providing less money for the students already in the system.

As state General Fund and Lottery support of K-12 education has declined from 44.8% in 2003-05 to 38.2% in the Governor's recommended budget, school dis-

tricts have cut their programs, staff and school days under existing mandates, and anticipate cutting more.

We appreciate that the Legislature's education committees are hearing mandate relief bills to attempt to help districts target resources away from mandate compliance paperwork and toward support of student achievement. While these bills, if passed, are an important step, they do not provide the substantial funds necessary to implement full-day kindergarten.

SB 248 advances a goal we all support, but without additional funding, it is a burden school districts cannot bear without carving out another area of a student's school experience.

Senators Suzanne Bonamici (D-Beaverton) and Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg) pledged that the Senate will monitor funding between now and the 2015-16 implementation date of the mandate. "We have set a bar we have to hit. We meet annually and can review this every year," Kruse said. Kruse also referenced the issue of infrastructure needs in school districts related to kindergarten. "I trust they [school districts] will let us know," he said.

The bill now moves to the House.

Charter bill passes Senate

[Senate Bill 255](#), the consensus product of OSBA's 10-Year Charter Review Committee, cleared the Senate floor with a unanimous vote and now heads to the House. Read more at www.leg.state.or.us/press_releases/sdo_032111_2.html.

CC budget inadequate to meet demand

Community college budget hearings took place this week in the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee.

Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) Commissioner Camille Preus presented information highlighting the department's mission, goals and performance measurers. Community colleges and related workforce training programs continue to grow, and currently face a tremendous increase in demand as a result of the prolonged poor economy and high unemployment rates.

Governor Kitzhaber's proposed budget provides only \$410 million to the community college support fund, a **reduction** from the \$416.1 million allocated for community colleges in the 2009-11 budget.

Rep. Betty Komp, Ways and Means Education Subcommittee co-chair, commented, "Commissioner Preus gave us a stark realization of the many unemployed workers who don't have the work skills to reenter the workforce. We're not even close to meeting demand with the current level of support for our community colleges."

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