

OSBA Legislative Highlights



the Promise
OF OREGON

April 24, 2015

Deadlines come and deadlines go

This week the Oregon Legislature passed one of its self-imposed deadlines of the 78th session. Tuesday was the deadline for bills to be “worked” in a work session in the originating committee. Essentially this means that House bills had to have a work session in the originating House committee and the same for Senate bills in Senate committees, or the bill was dead.

This creates a hectic time at the Capitol as advocates try to get their bills scheduled for work sessions and negotiate amendments so bills can move through the process and meet deadlines. Usually if the bill does not meet this deadline it is dead. A bill is never truly dead, however, until the Legislature adjourns sine die. A bill that appears to be dead sometimes can be revived as an amendment to another bill. Or a bill can live longer if it has been assigned to a committee that does not have that imposed time limit by the leadership. In this session, as has been the tradition in past sessions, the Rules Committee in each chamber, the revenue committees and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means do not have those timelines. So over the past week we saw a large number of bills being referred to those committees as ways to keep them alive.

Many bills that OSBA has been tracking have been worked by the originating committee and have moved on, but several are still pending in the committees that do not need to comply with the timeline requirements. They include the rewrite of the Oregon Education Investment Board and its duties (SB 215 – Senate Rules), dual credit/community college credit offerings in high school (SB 418 – Ways and Means) and mandatory paid sick leave for employees (SB 454 – Ways and Means), to name just a few. OSBA’s legislative services staff will be working with the members of these committees and advocates in an effort to ensure these bills meet with OSBA’s adopted legislative policies and priorities.

May and June will bring more legislatively self-imposed timelines. A bill must be posted for a work session in the second chamber’s committee by Friday, May 22, and it must have been worked in a work session and reported out of the second chamber’s committee by Friday, June 5. These timelines will again create added stress at the Capitol and will more clearly define what bills are going to survive this session and become law. Again these timelines do not apply to the above-mentioned committees (Rules, Revenue and Ways and Means) and so some bills will continue to linger until the waning moments of the session. The session is scheduled to end

on June 26, but the required constitutional date of sine die is July 11.

If you have any questions related to bills this session please visit:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx

And feel free to reach out to the staff member who is assigned that bill – Morgan Allen, Lori Sattenspiel or Jim Green – and they will answer your questions.

Improvements to interdistrict transfer system clear Senate Education Committee

On Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee voted 6-1 to send **Senate Bill 709**, with amendments, to the full Senate for consideration. Since the 2011 legislative session, there have been significant changes to the systems and rules governing student transfers. To better understand the need for Senate Bill 709, it is useful to recap what has happened over the past four years, beginning with the 2011 session:

- 2011 Legislature passed House Bill 3681 and created “open enrollment” in Oregon. “Open enrollment” sunsets in July 2017 unless the Legislature takes further action.
- 2013 Legislature passed House Bill 2747, changing Oregon’s longstanding “interdistrict transfer” statute. Most importantly, the bill included language to ensure that all students in Oregon are treated equally in the transfer process and ensured that special education students may not be denied transfers.
- 2014 Legislature passed House Bill 4007 to ensure that students who have been granted interdistrict transfer in previous years could move to the front of the line when requesting new transfers, and allowing students who move during the school year to finish out the academic year without requiring an interdistrict transfer agreement.

A Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) work group chaired by Supt. Erin Prince (Corvallis), Supt. Karen Gray (Parkrose), Supt. Darin Drill (Cascade) and staffed by OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen, has been meeting for a year with a long-term goal of replacing our current two-tiered system

(interdistrict transfers and open enrollment) with one transfer “system” that is uniform across the state. While this goal will not be achieved during the 2015 session, Senate Bill 709 will make the interdistrict transfer system better for families and districts. Changes to interdistrict transfer rules in SB 709 include:

1. Clarifies that districts may revoke transfers for not meeting behavior requirements or attendance standards, but not for academic reasons.
2. Students who move over the summer and may have missed the transfer window can stay for the next school year.
3. Clarifies that a student whose transfer has been revoked may not apply for a transfer to the same district for the next academic year. Under the current law, if a district revokes a transfer the student can immediately reapply and the district must accept the student.
4. Changes the law so that a student does not need to get a new transfer to keep attending the same district if his or her family makes subsequent moves. If a student lives in district A, transfers to B and subsequently moves to C, he or she won't need a new transfer between B and C, as required under current law.
5. Clarifies districts can ask for sibling information and school preference on interdistrict transfer application forms.
6. Allows Oregon Department of Education to clarify what constitutes a “hardship” transfer to give districts more latitude to deal with situations as they arise with individual student/family circumstances.
7. Districts will be allowed to give preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who move during the school year or over the summer. Here is an example of how this works: Sally Smith's family moves in August and has missed the transfer window for the upcoming school year. The bill would allow her to stay for the next school year AND if she wants to apply for a transfer when the window opens, the receiving district may give her preference if there are more applicants than slots available.
8. There would be a ban on using State School Fund dollars to do out-of-district marketing such as buying ads/billboards or doing direct mailers into neighboring districts for interdistrict transfers.
9. Allows districts to give preference for interdistrict transfer slots to students who have attended charter schools in their district for at least three consecutive years and finished the highest grade at the charter school.

OSBA supports efforts to find common ground on the sometimes confusing issue of student transfers, and believes SB 709 will make the interdistrict transfer system work better for students, families and school districts.

Please contact OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen (mallen@osba.org) if you have questions or comments.

To view SB 709 and its history:
www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=SB_07090&ptadd=:%20SB_07090%20Details

Charter bills in Senate Education

Senate Bill 3044 and **Senate Bill 3045** were heard in the Senate Education Committee late this week.

Senate Bill 3044 adds charter schools to ORS 332.158, and would require that a charter school that intends to operate a facility outside of its sponsoring district boundaries notify the school district in which the facility is intended to be located.

Current law, ORS 338.120, requires “virtual” public charter schools to conduct school-sponsored, optional educational events at least six times each school year at locations selected to provide convenient access to all students enrolled in the school who want to participate. It also requires that meetings be held at least twice a week between teachers and students enrolled in the school, either in person or through the use of conference calls or other technology.

Virtual charter schools have begun to locate facilities (test centers and drop-in sites) in cities where many of their enrolled students live, to provide educational assistance and keep the virtual school in compliance with the law.

Portland Public Schools (PPS), as the largest school district in the state, has many students enrolled in charter schools. But David Williams, legislative director for PPS, said the district currently has no way of knowing whether virtual charter schools have set up camp inside district boundaries.

“If there is a problem or issue, the community and parents come to PPS and assume it's one of our schools,” he said. “This bill would add to the statute the requirement for notification of the intent to operate a facility within our boundaries, before beginning operation of the facility.”

Also heard late this week was Senate Bill 3045, which would remove the requirement in ORS 338.155(5) that a small portion of funds for a charter school student be given to the district where the child resides. This small amount of money, currently being sent back to the student's resident district, was put in statute with the original charter legislation, to assist the resident district for tracking and other administrative functions.

Williams of PPS asked committee members to support the bill, which would reduce the administrative burden of tracking and shifting money back and forth between school districts within the system.

Rep. Jodi Hack (R- Salem) testified, suggesting to the committee that an amendment to the bill is needed. She told the committee that she would like to have these “held

back and transferred monies” be sent to the charter school where the student is enrolled.

The committee had no questions concerning the two bills. Both bills were scheduled only for a public hearing and no further action was taken.

Contact OSBA Legislative Specialist Lori Sattenspiel (lsattenspiel@osba.org) if you have questions or comments.

To view the bills and their history:

HB 3044:

[www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=HB 30440&ptadd=%20HB 30440%20Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=HB_30440&ptadd=%20HB_30440%20Details)

HB 3045:

[www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=HB 30450&ptadd=%20HB 30450%20Details](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?key=HB_30450&ptadd=%20HB_30450%20Details)

Attend a Ways and Means field hearing – continue the push for higher funding

Over the next several months, OSBA will work with the Legislature to increase the funding level of \$7.255 billion passed by the Senate earlier this month. **We need your continued advocacy!** We urge you to advocate on behalf of Oregon’s schoolchildren:

1. The Oregon Legislature’s Joint Committee on Ways and Means has two more field hearings scheduled. **Attend one of the remaining hearings and testify** on the recently passed 2015-17 K-12 budget (HB 5017A, funded at \$7.255 billion), which is inadequate if schools are to meet the state 40-20-20 goal. For the vast majority of school districts, this is a cuts budget, and we need to urge the Legislature and governor to keep The Promise of Oregon by investing additional resources in schools as promised.
2. In concert with your superintendent, please also **communicate with your legislators, local media, staff and parents** each week throughout your budget process about what \$7.255 billion

means for students in your district. Share any staff, days or program cuts you are considering. Compare your anticipated 2015-16 staffing and program levels to pre-recession levels. Discuss how you would use the additional funding provided by a state school fund budget of \$7.5 billion (or more). The Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) is coordinating superintendents’ efforts.

3. **Work with your ESDs to develop collective messages** describing the impact of a \$7.255 billion budget in your regions, as well as what you could accomplish with \$7.5 billion or more. The Oregon Association of Education Service Districts (OAESD) is coordinating this effort.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy on behalf of our students!

Questions? Contact Executive Director Betsy Miller-Jones (bmillerjones@osba.org) or Deputy Executive Director Jim Green (jgreen@osba.org).

Ways and Means Committee hearing sites and times can be found at:

www.osba.org/News%20Center/Announcements/2015-04-09_LH_ActionAlert_SSF_FieldHearings.aspx

View HB 5017A:

www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=15&t=&r=&q=5017&c=50&key=HB%2050170&ptadd=%20HB%205017%20Details



Show your support for fully funding Oregon’s public schools - Sign the petition!

<http://promiseoregon.org/petition>

WAYS AND MEANS PUBLIC HEARINGS: REMAINING SITES AND TIMES

Date	Time	City	Location
Friday, April 24	5:30-7:00 p.m.	Klamath Falls	Oregon Institute of Technology
Saturday, April 25	12:30-2:00 p.m.	Grants Pass	Grants Pass High School – Performing Arts Center Lecture Hall

Both hearings will be open to the public and members of the press.

Contact your legislator

Find your legislators' contact information on the Oregon Legislature's website:

www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html

Enter your address, or click on your district on the map, then:

- For representatives – click the House tab
- For senators – click the Senate tab

To contact your legislator by phone, call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-800-332-2313.

Questions about legislative issues?

Contact the OSBA Legislative Services Team:

800-578-6722 or 503-588-2800

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