

OSBA Legislative Highlights



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March 31, 2017

Senate Education Committee hears controversial CTE-STEM oversight bill

[Senate Bill 297](#) would make major changes to the system of oversight for career and technical education programs and science, technology, engineering and math programs.

The bill would dissolve the existing STEM Investment Council and create, in its place, a new board, the CTE-STEM Investment Council. The composition of the new council would be almost the same as the existing council but would have greatly expanded levels of oversight.

Bills passed in 2013 created a two-track system of oversight for STEM and CTE investments. STEM investments are overseen by the Chief Education Office, and the current STEM Investment Council advises on those investments. CTE investments are overseen by the deputy superintendent of public instruction, and the Oregon Department of Education is responsible for CTE grants administration, including program monitoring.

The Senate Education Committee heard testimony Thursday on SB 297.

The bill's main proponents include representatives of organizations that are currently members of the STEM council. Supporters want to see more integration of CTE and STEM education by aligning the oversight.

OSBA and other education stakeholder groups, including the Confederation of School Administrators, opposed the bill.

Richard Donovan, OSBA legislative specialist, testified that enacting SB 297 would represent "a hostile takeover of an entire programmatic area without regard for the best interests of the students of Oregon."

There is no need for the changes proposed by SB 297, he said, noting that in the bill, "there is no requirement for any programmatic or classroom-level experience or expertise" on the new board.

"There are no educators, administrators or school board members listed as voting members," he said. "There is no required coordination between the agency personnel doing the actual school- and program-level work and the CTE-STEM Investment Council members. These are glaring omissions."

OSBA will monitor the bill. Responses from committee members were mixed; some legislators seemed to be in favor of the bill and others opposed. No further hearings have been scheduled.

- *Richard Donovan*
Legislative specialist
rdonovan@osba.org



Morgan Allen, deputy executive director of policy and advocacy for the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (right), and OSBA Legislative Specialist Richard Donovan testify Thursday before the Senate Education Committee against Senate Bill 297. (Photo by Jake Arnold, OSBA)

Pilot program would aim to simplify putting more nurses in schools

Supporters of additional nurses in schools packed a Senate Education Committee hearing Tuesday.

A year-long task force charged with figuring out how to get more nurses in schools led to [Senate Bill 111](#). Given the significant budget situation facing the Legislature, the bill was amended to be moved forward as a pilot project, which would limit participation to nine school districts.



Andy Bellando, Silver Falls School District superintendent

The Oregon Department of Education would develop and administer the pilot program. The program's goal is to demonstrate that, with proper technical assistance for school districts and education service districts, billing Medicaid can support additional nurses in schools.

Some school districts and ESDs already bill Medicaid.

"Our district has built a program that has been successful," said Silver Falls

School District Superintendent Andy Bellando, but "this pursuit required a lot of up-front work, a steep learning curve and a continued commitment by staff members to make it happen."

The pilot program would report to the Legislature on its results. If successful, the program would help provide direction to ODE and the Legislature for investing in the infrastructure for a statewide program in the next biennium, according to supporters.

School districts that do not bill Medicaid said the system is too complicated, there is not enough personnel to do billing and the risk of errors and penalties is not worth it.

The expectation is the pilot program's results can be used to build a system that reduces the complexity and personnel needed to bill and, with support from ODE, reduces the risks associated with billing Medicaid.

OSBA supports SB 111 and will monitor the bill's progress.

- *Lori Sattenspiel*
Interim director of legislative services
lsattenspiel@osba.org

Hearings on higher education funding bill also look at state's future

[Senate Bill 5524](#) would allocate \$2.79 billion for higher education in Oregon.

The Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee began hearings Monday on the funding bill for post-secondary education. The bill includes funding for community colleges, public universities, student financial assistance programs and workforce development programs.



Ben Cannon, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, executive director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, led the presentation, with support from other higher education stakeholders and experts.

Cannon described higher education in Oregon as going in the correct direction, specifically describing the increasing rate of higher education degree holders since 2006.

"A lot of people went back to school in 2008, 2009 and 2010," he said. "We're seeing the benefits of that beginning in 2012."

He also noted that Oregon is a "net-importer" of higher education degrees, meaning that people moving to Oregon have degrees.

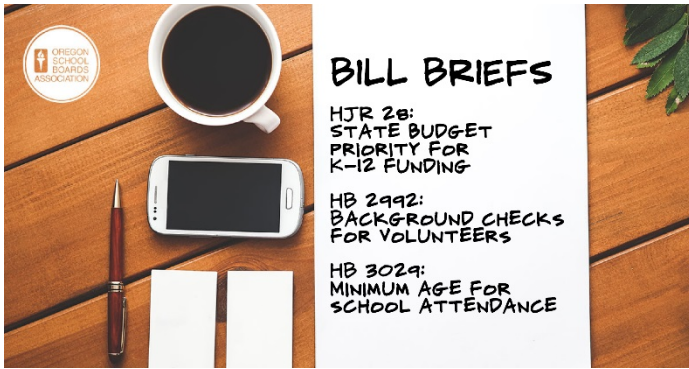
Subcommittee members spent significant time Monday discussing [Oregon's "40-40-20" goal](#). Some committee members referenced measures that would change the 40-40-20 goals, describing the goals as contrary to the anticipated needs for Oregon's workforce.

Cannon defended the goal, saying that the goals' architects in 2011 envisioned "the workforce of the future, the workforce of 2025."

The education subcommittee expects hearings to continue for two to three weeks.

- *Richard Donovan*
Legislative specialist
rdonovan@osba.org

Bill Briefs



State budget priority for K-12 funding

[House Joint Resolution 28](#)

What it does: The resolution would change the Oregon Constitution to require the Legislature to pass the appropriation for education funding before passing any other budget bill. Passing the education budget first would be helpful with the timing of school budget processes. The drawback, though, is that during a legislative session there are two quarterly revenue forecasts for building the budget. If the schools budget comes out before the May forecast, there is a risk that the budget would not have a chance at acquiring additional resources.

What's new: The House Education Committee heard the resolution March 29. There was a robust discussion by committee members about the need to fund education first and at the Quality Education Model level.

What's next: The committee did not act on the bill during the hearing, and OSBA will monitor this bill.

Background checks for volunteers

[House Bill 2992](#)

What it does: The bill would require districts to have a background check policy for volunteers.

What's new: The House Judiciary Committee heard the bill March 30. Currently, the law requires all newly hired school employees to submit to a nationwide criminal record check, including fingerprinting. The bill would require individuals contracting with the district and their employees who have direct and unsupervised contact with students to undergo the nationwide criminal records check and fingerprinting. Districts could choose to include volunteers, but it would not be mandatory. The committee heard an amendment that would require background checks on volunteers who would have direct and unsupervised contact with students.

What's next: The committee did not take any action on the bill. OSBA supports local control on the issue and will continue to monitor the bill.

Minimum age for school attendance

[House Bill 3029](#)

What it does: This bill, as amended, would permit parents of a 6-year-old student to delay enrolling the child in public school if the parent determined the delay was “for the purpose of better meeting the child’s needs for cognitive, social or physical development.”

What's new: The House Education Committee heard the bill March 28. OSBA expressed strong concerns with the measure during the hearing.

What's next: Academic literature shows that students benefit the earlier they start age-appropriate schooling. Testimony in committee indicated that Rep. Cedric Hayden (R-Falls Creek) introduced the bill with a certain subset of high-needs students in mind, so it is possible that new amendments will be drafted. No further hearings have been scheduled on the bill.

The Week Ahead



April 3, 3 p.m.

House Education Committee holds public hearing on prohibiting Legislature from enacting some education legislation ([HB 3208](#)) and establishing procedures for behavior plans for students on IEPs ([HB 3318](#)), possible work session on creating standards for occupational therapy for students on IEPs ([HB 3263](#)) and prioritizing admissions to charter schools ([HB 3313](#)), and work session on developing statewide school nursing services ([HB 2223](#)).

April 4, 3 p.m.

Senate Education Committee holds public hearing on paying for college ([SB 758](#), [SB 759](#) and [SB 1001](#)) and developing policies for use of school facilities and libraries by private tutors ([SB 1002](#)) and work session on establishing Educator Advancement Council ([SB 182](#)) and prescribing requirements for dyslexia tests ([SB 1003](#)).

April 5, 3 p.m.

House Education Committee holds public hearing on assisting students in poor families ([HB 3216](#)) and creating advisory group on ELL programs ([HB 3358](#)); possible work sessions on establishing Task Force on Family Engagement in Education ([HB 3185](#)),

offering summer education to students in high-poverty, high-ELL schools ([HB 3191](#)), waiving high school diploma requirements for students in foster care or who are homeless or runaways ([HB 3267](#)) and providing education when treatment programs open up ([HB 3156](#)); and work session on alerting high school students to apprenticeship opportunities ([HB 3340](#)).

April 5, 3 p.m.

Senate Workforce Committee holds public hearing on changes to PERS ([SB 200](#) and [SB 712](#)).

April 6, 3 p.m.

House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee holds public hearing on making 40-40-20 goals only for Oregonians completing education ([HB 2311](#)) and work session on categorizing accelerated college credit programs ([HB 2313](#)) and giving authority to community college student governments ([HB 2666](#)).

April 6, 3 p.m.

Senate Education Committee holds possible work session on requiring 25 percent of opportunity grant money go to students committed to STEM fields ([SB 576](#) and [SB 443](#)), studying TAG funding ([SB 889](#)), establishing Task Force on the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act ([SB 353](#)) and identifying students for advanced placement exams ([SB 887](#)) and work session on providing prospective students with college cost details ([SB 253](#)).

April 7

All bills in Legislature must be scheduled for a work session.

Items may be added to committee agendas during the week. The Oregon Legislature keeps an updated page of committee agendas at:

olis.leg.state.or.us/LIZ/Committees/Meeting/List

- *Jake Arnold*

Communications and news specialist

jarnold@osba.org