

OSBA Legislative Highlights



the Promise
OF OREGON



May 12, 2017

Chief Education Office presents governor's education policy initiatives

[Senate Bills 182](#) and [183](#) represent Gov. Kate Brown's education policy initiatives for this legislative session. On Monday, the Chief Education Office appeared before the House Education Committee to make its case.

The hearing was organized at the request of House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) to provide information to the House-side education policy committee. Because the two bills have already been passed by the Senate Education Committee to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, it is unnecessary and unlikely they will be referred to the House Education Committee.

The bills represent two distinct yet complementary approaches to improving Oregon's graduation rate. SB 183 would "carve out" \$20 million from the State School Fund to create a graduation early indicator and intervention system statewide.

SB 182 would change the existing Network for Quality Teaching and Learning to a new Educator Advancement Council. Currently, the NQTL receives \$57 million biennially. Those funds are distributed to support teacher professional development, with specific emphasis on new teacher training and mentoring. The Educator Advancement Council would create a new council to do much of the same work.



Lindsey Capps

Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps began the presentations by summarizing the measure's goals.

"The legislative proposals will advance our efforts across Oregon to improve graduation outcomes and make ongoing progress to achieving Oregon's vision, and that of the governor, to ensure that every student graduates high school with a

plan for his or her future," he said.

He described the bills as working "in tandem with communities and educators" to help "students least likely to graduate high school."

Other presenters included Education Innovation Officer Colt Gill and Hilda Rosselli, director of career and college readiness for the Chief Education Office.

The hearing was purely for informational purposes, and as such there was no opposition testimony. The presentations described generally the problems and

solutions the bills seek to address but did not focus on measure details.

This lack of detail was compounded by the fact that the text of SB 182 is not yet final. The presenters touted the measure as the result of two years of work by the office, but final amendments have not been drafted.

There did not seem to be consensus among legislators or advocates about either measure. Some committee members were complimentary and encouraged the panel to continue to address problems.

"We need to continue to do better ... and I'm so excited to continue to have these conversations," said Rep. Janeen Sollman (D-Hillsboro).



Rep. Janeen Sollman

Other members were encouraging but concerned. Rep. Susan McLain (D-Forest Grove) asked about the structure of the education system and stressed its importance.

"How do we make sure we don't limit ourselves?" she asked, addressing the panel of presenters from the Chief Education Office. "Are we sure that we have this in a form that, even in the future if our needs change, we can still see this being the right funding ... just making sure that we're not siloing this money?"



Rep. Susan McLain

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

Legislature develops environmental hazards plan for schools

Since last summer schools have been faced with the challenge of testing their buildings for lead contamination. Fallout from a third-party investigation of Portland Public Schools has made lead testing and mitigation efforts hot-button issues in districts across the state.

Not only parents but also Oregon's governor and state legislators want assurances that drinking school water doesn't pose a health risk to students and staff.

Bill Briefs

Stakeholders worked with the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority on a plan that would create transparency and communications between school districts and the community about potential environmental hazards in school. Those initial plans, the [Healthy and Safe Schools Plans](#), were submitted Jan. 1 to ODE.

The stakeholder group continued meeting with legislators to discuss how to address other potential environmental hazards in schools. [Senate Bill 1062](#) would highlight other possible environmental hazards and create the necessary transparency, education and process to ensure the community, students, staff and schools are informed about hazards and how schools will address them.

“We’ve worked hard to balance the safety of students and staff against the lack of sufficient resources to address each and every environmental hazard a school might have,” OSBA Interim Director of Legislative Services Lori Sattenspiel testified this week before the Senate Rules Committee. “This bill provides transparency and a process for staff, students and parents to be assured health issues will continually be addressed.”

The bill puts the Healthy and Safe Schools Plans into statute and addresses other possible environmental hazards that will be added to a new plan. Provisions include:

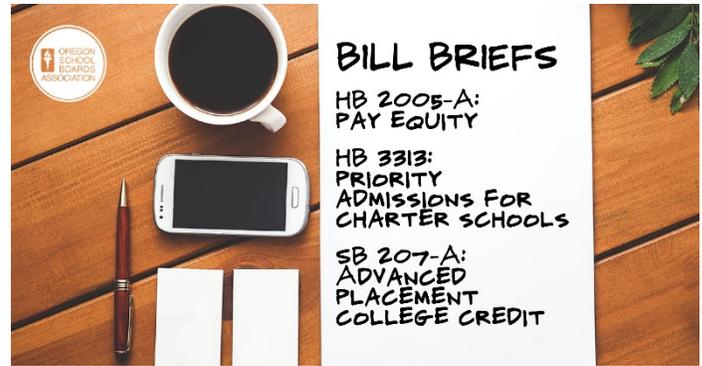
- A protocol for how often a district will test for lead in water, to be determined by a work group.
- Carbon monoxide detectors, to be located where combustibles are present.
- A fund to reimburse schools for future lead testing and carbon monoxide detector costs.
- Information provided by ODE and the health authority on best practices for reducing other environmental hazards and information sheets for districts to use informing parents of environmental hazards, such as mold, and other air quality issues, such as idling buses.



ODE would create a new model plan that addresses the elements in this bill. School districts would take the model plan and create district-specific plans. ODE would have the new plan available for districts to use by January 2019, and the new plans would need to be completed and submitted to ODE by July 1, 2019.

The committee did not act on the bill during the hearing.

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



Pay equity

[House Bill 2005-A](#)

What it does: The original bill was a product of a study in 2014-15 looking at pay inequality in Oregon. HB 2005-A, the version that passed the House, extends equal pay to people in protected classes as well as prohibiting an employer from using salary history to screen applicants or to determine compensation. The bill also expands remedies for pay equity violations, including compensatory and punitive damages and a jury trial.

What’s new: The Senate Workforce Committee held a work session on the bill this week and adopted amendments. An amendment adds a section that allows an employer to conduct an equal-pay analysis to be used as preponderance of evidence that the employer has acted in good faith to eliminate the wage differentials and has made reasonable progress toward eliminating wage differentials. Conducting this analysis would limit the employer’s liability.

What’s next: The bill moved out of committee on a unanimous vote and heads directly to the Senate floor for a vote. OSBA has been involved in the work group and has continued concerns with this bill and how implementing it will impact school districts.

Priority admissions for charter schools

[House Bill 3313](#)

What it does: The bill deals with the narrow circumstance that occurs when a charter school is formed to take over the neighborhood school function of another school after that school was closed by a school district. In that circumstance, HB 3313 would allow the charter to take over the existing priority for admissions from the old admissions boundary of the closed school. Currently, charter schools in this circumstance may appeal to the State Board of Education. The waiver is normally granted for a short period of time, often one year.

What’s new: The House Education Committee heard the bill Monday. OSBA was previously opposed to the bill. However, the committee also heard amendments drafted by the bill’s chief sponsor, Rep. Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene), and OSBA. The amendments require that charter schools seeking this admissions priority be sponsored by the local district, be operating in the same area as the previously closed school, and gain approval from the local board.

With these amendments, OSBA supports the measure and views it as a good tool for enhancing local control and charter school-school board relations.

What's next: OSBA will monitor the bill and advocate for a vote in the House Education Committee.

Advanced Placement college credit

[Senate Bill 207-A](#)

What it does: The bill would require public universities and community colleges to give credit, beginning with the 2018-19 school year, to students who participated in an Advanced Placement program and received a grade of three or higher on the relevant examination. Advanced Placement classes are offered by high schools throughout Oregon. They operate under guidelines issued by the College Board, a national nonprofit corporation. There are AP courses in more than 30 subjects, including science fields, mathematics, computer science, history, English and foreign languages. According to the Legislature's Legislative Policy and Research Office, nearly 20,000 Oregon high school students enrolled in AP courses in 2016. The mean score of those tests was 2.93 out of 5.

What's new: The House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing on the measure Tuesday. Testimony was mixed, with individuals testifying both for and against the measure. Proponents testified that the bill would support student achievement and increase graduation rates, while simultaneously lowering levels of student debt. Opponents expressed concerns with potential negative impacts on students based on inconsistent instruction, as well as concerns with the minimum score of three, rather than four, out of a possible five.

What's next: OSBA will monitor the bill.

The Week Ahead



May 15

8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee holds informational meeting on ESSA impact.

11 a.m. Senate has third reading on:

- Encouraging financial literacy ([HB 2229-A](#)).
- Adding social workers to grant program to fight absenteeism ([HB 2648](#)).

May 16

The Office of Economic Analysis releases Oregon's economic forecast, the basis for most budget planning.

3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds public hearing on:

- Applying 40-40-20 goal only to high school graduates ([HB 2311](#)).
- Offering apprenticeship materials to high schools ([HB 3340-A](#)).
- Requiring colleges to have cultural competency standards ([HB 2864-A](#)).

3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds work session on:

- Encouraging civics education ([HB 2219-A](#)).
- Expanding types of entities that can get funding for STEM or CTE activities ([HB 2258](#)).
- Allowing priority admissions with charter schools ([HB 3313](#)).

8 p.m. Drop sites' deadline for Election Day ballots, including votes for school boards and bonds.

May 17

8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee holds informational meeting on the Oregon Promise Program, community college high-cost programs and community college funding.

May 18

12:30 p.m. House Education Committee tours Career Technical Education Center in Salem.

3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds public hearing on:

- Convening ELL advisory group ([HB 3358-A](#)).
- Getting annual report from the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission ([HB 3351](#)).
- Establishing procedures for functional behavioral analysis ([HB 3318-A](#)).
- Creating National Guard exemption for Oregon Promise ([HB 3423-A](#)).

May 19

Deadline for committees to schedule work sessions for second chamber measures. This does not include Ways and Means, revenue and rules committees.

Items may be added to legislative 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