

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Establishes criteria by which school district may establish post-graduate scholar program to receive and expend certain State School Fund moneys for certain students who have satisfied requirements for high school diploma.

Directs Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit reports related to programs to interim legislative committees on education.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to payment for community college courses by school districts; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2016 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 327.006 to 327.133.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, “post-graduate scholar” means a student who:

(a) Has been in grades 9 through 12 for more than a total of four school years; and

(b) Has satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma as provided in ORS 329.451 (2).

(2) A school district may establish a program under this section to allow:

(a) A post-graduate scholar who satisfies the requirements of subsection (3) of this section to:

(A) Enroll in courses at a community college for one school year after the post-graduate scholar has satisfied the requirements for a

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 high school diploma as provided in ORS 329.451 (2); and

2 (B) Have the school district pay the costs incurred for the courses
3 described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, including tuition, fees
4 and books.

5 (b) A school district that satisfies the requirements of subsection
6 (4) of this section to receive and expend moneys distributed from the
7 State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for the purpose of paying the
8 costs described in paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

9 (3) A post-graduate scholar qualifies to participate in a program
10 established under this section if the post-graduate scholar:

11 (a) Has completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal
12 Student Aid, if eligible to file the application;

13 (b) Is not eligible for a grant under the Oregon Promise program
14 described in ORS 341.522 because of failure to earn the minimum cu-
15 mulative grade point average, or applied for but did not receive a grant
16 under the Oregon Promise program; and

17 (c) Retains a legal residence within the boundaries of the school
18 district through which the post-graduate scholar satisfied the re-
19 quirements for a high school diploma.

20 (4) A school district may receive and expend moneys distributed
21 from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for a program estab-
22 lished under this section if the school district meets all of the follow-
23 ing criteria:

24 (a) Has a policy for the program that is adopted by the school dis-
25 trict board and that describes:

26 (A) The goals of the program, including target high school gradu-
27 ation rates for underserved students;

28 (B) Minimum requirements for grade point average, attendance and
29 participation in regular in-person meetings with school district staff
30 to monitor student progress; and

31 (C) The manner by which the results of the program will be meas-

ured and monitored.

(b) Enters into a written agreement with the community college that has a service area within which the school district is located.

(c) Has dedicated staff to provide support services to post-graduate scholars, including regular in-person meetings to monitor student progress that occur at least twice each month.

(d) Ensures that a majority of students from the school district who are enrolled in courses at a community college meet at least one of the criteria identified in this paragraph. The student:

(A) Is not a post-graduate scholar;

(B) Has received a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;

(C) Was enrolled in an alternative high school program within the preceding 12 months;

(D) Is, or will be, a first-generation graduate of high school;

(E) Will be a first-generation graduate of an institution of higher education;

(F) Is, or has been, a child in a foster home;

(G) Is, or has been, placed in a facility or an education program by a court;

(H) Is homeless;

(I) Is a parent; or

(J) Was identified as eligible for free or reduced price lunches within the preceding 12 months.

(e) Submits an annual report to the Department of Education by September 1 of each year that provides the following information from the preceding school year:

(A) The number of post-graduate scholars enrolled in the school district;

(B) The number of post-graduate scholars who completed the full school year in the program;

1 (C) The average number of community college credits earned by
2 students who completed a full school year in the program; and

3 (D) The percentage of post-graduate scholars who enrolled in a
4 second school year of post-secondary education after completing the
5 program.

6 (5) Notwithstanding ORS 327.013, the weighted average daily mem-
7 bership assigned for each post-graduate scholar shall be adjusted as
8 follows:

9 (a) By subtracting 0.25 from the average daily membership assigned
10 for each post-graduate scholar participating in the program estab-
11 lished under this section; and

12 (b) Without adding any amounts identified in ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A).

13 (6) For purposes of this section, a school district may not counsel
14 or assist a student to delay receiving a high school diploma for the
15 purpose of participating in a school-sponsored, post-secondary educa-
16 tion program.

17 (7) Nothing in this section:

18 (a) Prohibits a school district from receiving or expending moneys
19 related to the education of post-graduate scholars that are not re-
20 ceived or expended for purposes of this section, as long as the school
21 district does not receive or expend State School Fund distributions
22 under ORS 327.013 for those purposes.

23 (b) Requires a post-graduate scholar to accept or use any federal
24 grant moneys to offset costs of tuition, fees or books incurred by a
25 post-graduate scholar at a community college.

26 (8) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, a post-graduate
27 scholar may not accept or use any federal grant moneys to offset costs
28 of tuition, fees or books incurred by a post-graduate scholar at a
29 community college.

30 SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2016 Act applies to State School Fund
31 distributions commencing with the 2016-2017 distributions.

SECTION 4. (1) Notwithstanding section 2 (4)(e) of this 2016 Act, a school district is not required to submit the first report until September 1, 2017.

(2) Notwithstanding section 2 (5)(a) of this 2016 Act, the weighted average daily membership assigned for each post-graduate scholar shall be adjusted as follows:

(a) For the 2016-2017 school year, no subtraction shall be made.

(b) For the 2017-2018 school year, by subtracting 0.15.

SECTION 5. No later than November 1, 2018, the Department of Education shall:

(1) Provide a report to the interim legislative committees on education that includes:

(a) A compilation of the data provided by school districts under section 2 (4)(e) of this 2016 Act.

(b) The amount of moneys received by school districts from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for post-graduate scholars participating in a program established under section 2 of this 2016 Act.

(c) Subject to data available to the department, the number of post-graduate scholars for whom school districts received moneys from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for each of the preceding school years.

(2) Make recommendations about the appropriate additional amount to be calculated for each post-graduate scholar participating in a program established under section 2 of this 2016 Act for purposes of calculating weighted average daily membership for State School Fund distributions under ORS 327.013. The recommendations must consider:

(a) Input from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission;

(b) The amount of moneys received by all school districts from the State School Fund under ORS 327.013 for post-graduate scholars; and

(c) Any alternate funding sources for the costs of post-secondary education that are available to students who:

1 (A) Are not eligible for the Oregon Promise program under ORS
2 341.522 because of failure to earn the minimum cumulative grade point
3 average; or

4 (B) Do not receive a grant under the Oregon Promise program be-
5 cause of a lack of adequate funding to provide grants to all students
6 who are eligible for a grant under the program.

7 SECTION 6. No later than November 1, 2018, the Higher Education
8 Coordinating Commission shall make a report to the interim legisla-
9 tive committees on education that includes the costs incurred by
10 community colleges and the amounts received by community colleges
11 for post-graduate scholars who participated in a program established
12 under section 2 of this 2016 Act. Community colleges shall cooperate
13 with the commission for the purpose of making the report required
14 by this section.

15 SECTION 7. This 2016 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
16 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
17 clared to exist, and this 2016 Act takes effect on its passage.