CHAPTER 27

AN ACT SB 1596

Relating to play-based learning.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2026 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 329.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Free play" means activities that:

(A) Are performed by a child for self-amusement; and

(B) Are spontaneous, voluntary, unstructured and child-directed.

(b) "Guided play" means experiences that:

(A) Are under adult guidance; and

(B) Combine the child-directed nature of free play with a focus on learning outcomes.

(c) "Play-based learning" means learning that:

(A) Emphasizes free play or guided play; and

(B) Uses developmentally appropriate strategies that can be integrated into existing learning standards.

(2) Any rules adopted by the State Board of Education that prescribe requirements for instructional time shall allow play-based learning to be considered instructional time for students in kindergarten through grade five.

(3) For the purpose of this section, play-based learning does not include participation in physical education that complies with the requirements of ORS 329.496 or recess.

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