

Programs

The pre-K-20 education continuum was a major focus of this legislative session. The Governor set the tone for this early in his State-of-the-State address. Though few bills passed that would make immediate changes, discussions about improving alignment between sectors of education in Oregon was a major point of discussion in the halls of the capitol.

Of the bills that passed regarding postsecondary education programs, two will impact Oregon's community colleges. Senate Bill 23 made significant changes to the Expanded Options Program, which was passed in the 2005 session and allows at-risk students to leave high school and attend a post-secondary institution. The payment option of a minimum of 50% of the per-pupil funding was modified to allow a district and a college to negotiate a fair and equitable amount on their own. The Department of Education will mediate any differences to insure equity within the contracts. The Oregon Education Association and Oregon School Boards Association had asked that the funding be limited to a maximum of 50%, but OCCA successfully argued that setting a ceiling of 50% was unreasonable, and did not adequately reimburse community colleges for legitimate costs.

House Bill 2729 established the ASPIRE program. ASPIRE matches high school students with volunteer mentors who help provide students with the tools they need to access a post-secondary education. The bill appropriates money to the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for ASPIRE.

Programs

SB 23 -- Relating to Expanded Options Program

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

Chapter: 567 (2007 Laws)

Modifies definition of 'eligible student' for purposes of Expanded Options Program

Status: Governor Signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0023.en.pdf>

SB 879 – Relating to pain management programs

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Chapter: 528 (2007 Laws)

Requires Pain Management Commission to review pain management component of curriculum of certain educational institutions including community colleges.

Status: Gov signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0800.dir/sb0879.en.pdf>

SB 951 – Relating to student voters

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

Chapter: 529 (2007 Laws)

Directs community colleges and state institutions of higher education to adopt plans to encourage students to register to vote and to vote in elections.

Status: Governor signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0900.dir/sb0951.en.pdf>

HB 2729 – Relating to Oregon Student Assistance Commission (ASPIRE)

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

Chapter: ORS 293 (2007 Laws)

Allows Oregon Student Assistance Commission to establish programs to provide mentoring and resources that help students access education and training beyond high school.

Status: Governor signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2729.en.pdf>

HR 3 – Mandarin Chinese

Urges Oregon universities, community colleges and secondary schools to encourage Oregon students to learn Mandarin Chinese and to explore opportunities to study in China.

Status: Filed with Secretary of State

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hr1.dir/hr0003.en.pdf>

NOT PASSED

HB 2038 – Relating to Expanded Options Program

Removes limitation on total credit hours that may be awarded each school year to students who participate in Expanded Options Program.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2000.dir/hb2038.intro.pdf>

HB 2245 – Relating to Oregon Student Assistance Commission

Establishes ASPIRE program within Oregon Student Assistance Commission to provide mentoring and resources to help students access education and training beyond high school.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2245.intro.pdf>

HB 2262 – Relating to higher education degrees

Modifies authority of Office of Degree Authorization to review of proposed publicly funded post-secondary degree programs and degree locations and resolution of disputes relating to degree programs and degree locations. The purpose of this bill was to facilitate the implementation of career pathways initiatives.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2262.intro.pdf>

HB 2789 – Relating to payment for remedial courses

Directs school districts to reimburse community colleges for cost of providing remedial courses to students who received high school diploma.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2789.intro.pdf>

HB 3144 – Relating to college preparation grants

Directs Department of Education to award grants to school districts, community colleges and state institutions of higher education for programs that assist students in preparing for college.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3144.intro.pdf>

HB 3195 – Relating to veterans who are attending a post-secondary institution

Directs each public post-secondary institution to report on number of veterans who are attending institution.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3195.intro.pdf>

HB 3309 – Relating to SWAT Team for Oregon's Future Task Force

Creates SWAT (Schools Will Attract Talent) Team for Oregon's Future Task Force.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb3300.dir/hb3309.a.pdf>

HB 3310 – Relating to Mentoring Oregon's Talented and Gifted Program

Allows Department of Education to establish program to provide mentoring and resources that help students access education and training beyond high school.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb3300.dir/hb3310.a.pdf>

SB 144 – Relating to medical imaging

Changes name of Board of Radiologic Technology to Board of Medical Imaging Technology

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0100.dir/sb0144.a.pdf>

SB 434 – Relating to student loans

Establishes Multicultural Student to Teacher Loan Program to provide education loans to students who agree to teach in Oregon school districts.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0434.intro.pdf>

SB 589 – Relating to education – Career and Technical Education Study

Directs Department of Education to conduct study on career and technical education.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0500.dir/sb0589.intro.pdf>

SB 652 - Relating to Expanded Options Program

Modifies definition of eligible student for purposes of Expanded Options Program.

Status: In committee on adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0600.dir/sb0652.intro.pdf>

Workforce

Oregon's workforce training continued to be of much interest in the 2007 Legislative Session. The House Workforce and Economic Development Committee, led by Representative Brad Witt, held dozens of informational hearings with organizations, agencies and associations to discuss the growing demand on the aging workforce. Employers who testified before the Workforce and Economic Development Committee spoke in concert about the aging population and the need for an educated and skilled workforce. Community colleges were lauded by several different sectors of the workforce and identified as the linchpin to providing the education and skills training needed in the upcoming years.

Despite the overwhelming support for workforce training in these informational hearings, several bills were not funded and many questions remained unanswered about how Oregon will handle the looming workforce crisis. One piece of legislation that did not pass was House Bill 2206. House Bill 2206, also known as Skill-Up, would have appropriated \$10 million dollars for training workers who are laid off, are underemployed, or potential new workers who are attempting to get into the workforce but lack basic skills.

Though a number of workforce-related bills did not pass there were exceptions. One important exception was the passage of House Bill 2469, also known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). House Bill 2469 modified the TANF program to meet federal requirement under the Deficit Reduction Action of 2005. The bill expands opportunities and expedites the timeline for assistance and opportunities for job skills.

Workforce

HB 2469 – Relating to public assistance for families with dependent children

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

Chapter: 861 (2007 Laws)

Expands temporary assistance for needy families to include new State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI program and new temporary assistance for needy families program for working families.

Status: Governor signed

For the full text of the measure:

www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2469.en.pdf

NOT PASSED

HB 2180 – Relating to temporary assistance to needy families.

Expands temporary assistance to needy families to include new temporary assistance to needy families SSI program and new post-employment temporary assistance to needy families program for working families.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2100.dir/hb2180.intro.pdf>

HB 2206 – Relating to Skill Up Oregon Fund

Establishes Skill Up Oregon Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Establishes program to award grants to local and regional workforce investment boards to provide workforce training to individuals to become employed in high-demand occupations. Establishes Apprenticeship Support Account in Skill Up Oregon Fund. Directs Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to biennially transfer specified amount from fund to account. Continuously appropriates moneys in account to State Apprenticeship and Training Council. Establishes program to award grants for programs that enhance development of apprenticeship and training system that supplies skilled labor to meet occupational demands of construction and manufacturing industries.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2206.a.pdf>

HB 2246 – Relating to education aid for JOBS Plus Program participants

Requires Department of Human Services to transfer JOBS Plus participant's Oregon JOBS Individual Education Account to Oregon Student Assistance Commission to provide education assistance to participant after participant leaves JOBS Plus Program.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2246.intro.pdf>

HB 2726 – Relating to state-funded research that benefits private enterprise.

Establishes state policy that state-funded research benefiting private enterprise must encourage economic development and job creation in Oregon.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2726.a.pdf>

HB 2767 – Relating to Oregon Workforce Innovation Council

Creates Oregon Workforce Innovation Council to provide advice and develop state plan on issues related to education of Oregon workforce. Creates Oregon Innovation Fund.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2700.dir/hb2767.intro.pdf>

HB 3457 – Relating to taxation

Establishes tax credit for employer that pays all or part of community college tuition and related textbook expenses of employee in workforce training program.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb3400.dir/hb3457.intro.pdf>

Allied Health

Health related occupations were a high priority for this legislature. Several different policy committees discussed the progress from last session on allied health issues. Specifically, discussions centered on next steps in removing barriers to increasing nurses into the workforce, and how to best use scarce resources to address the problems. Within these discussions, OCCA was successful in raising facility concerns as a major issue for Oregon's colleges and preventing legislative language that would have interfered with local control. OCCA was successful in amending Senate Bill 4 which would have funneled general fund money to the Oregon Center for Nursing (OCN) for grant awards. Though the intent of the legislation was to award dollars to education institutions, language was initially included that would have limited local control for community colleges. Senate Bill 4 in its original form would have created a new oversight board that would have the authority to approve expenditures a college or university made for college nursing programs. OCCA opposed this bill as introduced and was successful in amending the language to exclude oversight of expenditures and reduced the amount of general fund going to OCN to \$800,000. Senate Bill 4 also included a provision exempting nursing faculty from the PERS 1039 hour limitation.

SB 4 – Relating to nursing

Effective Date: July 17, 2007

Chapter: 789 (2007 Laws)

Declares nursing workforce and nursing faculty shortage. Allows nurse who is retired under Public Employees Retirement System to be employed full-time by public employer as nursing instructor or department instructor without loss of retirement benefits.

Appropriates funds to the Oregon Center for Nursing.

Status: Governor signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0004.en.pdf>

SB 342 – Relating to public employee retirement

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Chapter: 499 (2007 Laws)

Allows nurse or employee of Department of Public Safety Standards and Training who is retired under Public Employees Retirement System to be employed full-time by public employer as nursing instructor or department instructor without loss of retirement benefits.

Status: Governor signed

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0300.dir/sb0342.en.pdf>

SJR 24 – Health Care Workforce

Recognizes importance of health care workforce in Oregon.

Status: Filed with the Secretary of State

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sjr1.dir/sjr0024.en.pdf>

NOT PASSED

SB 144 – Relating to medical imaging.

Changes name of Board of Radiologic Technology to Board of Medical Imaging Technology.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0100.dir/sb0144.a.pdf>

HB 2593 – Nurse instructor employment

Allows person who is retired under Public Employees Retirement System to be employed full-time by public employer as nurse or nurse instructor without loss of retirement benefits. This provision was included in SB 4 and SB 342 for nurse instructors.

Status: In committee upon adjournment

For the full text of the measure:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2593.intro.pdf>