

Minutes

ELL/ESL Subcommittee of the Task Force on School Funding

Date: June 10, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Place: Room 251B Public Service Building

Members Present

Rep. Betty Komp

Kelly Devlin

John Rexford

John W. Hayes, Jr. PhD.

Members Absent

Heidi Sipe

Claire Hertz

Staff:

Michael Elliott, Fiscal Analyst, ODE

Kim Miller, Education Specialist, ODE

The Subcommittee convened at 9:05 am. Betty Komp, Kelly Devlin, and John Hayes attended in person. John Rexford attended via teleconference. Claire Hertz and Heidi Sipe were excused.

The subcommittee reviewed data provided by the Oregon Department of Education. The data covered aggregated student counts for students currently in ELL, students who were ever in ELL and students who had exited ELL. Highlights from the data include:

- Current ELL students have a four-year graduation rate of 49.13%
- Current ELL students by grade 12 have an average of 6.6 years in ELL
- Students who have exited ELL programs in the last two years have a four-year graduation rate of 67.0%
- Students who have exited ELL programs in the last two years have an average of 7.3 years in ELL by grade 12
 - The sample size is only 931 students, so very small.
- Students who were ever in ELL programs have a four-year graduation rate of 57.99%
- Students who were ever in ELL programs have an average of 5.9 years in ELL programs by grade 12

The Subcommittee then heard a presentation from Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton about a proposal to change how ELL is funded in the state. The proposal includes the following elements:

- The ELL weight would increase from 0.5 to 0.6
- Districts would receive the weight for a set number of years for each identified ELL student. For students identified at ELPA level 1 or 2 a district would receive 7 years of funding. For students identified at ELPA level 3 or 4 a district would receive 4 years
- Districts would be required to spend 90% of the ELL weight on ELL services
- Districts would receive a bonus of \$250 for each student who was ever in ELL that graduated
- The funding would not be additional but would be a change in the formula

After the presentation the Subcommittee further discussed the proposal. The Subcommittee looked at what they liked about the proposal as well as areas of concern. The Subcommittee will likely include the following elements in future recommendations:

- Increasing the ELL weight from 0.5 to 0.6
- Giving the ELL weight for a set number of years
- Having a level of accountability in how funds are spent.

The Subcommittee had some concerns with the proposal. These include:

- Tracking the identification of students to determine the number of years of the funding
- Determining what would happen to students that switch districts during the schooling
- Requiring districts to spend 90% of the ELL funds on ELL services
- The processes and procedures needed to track the expenditure of funds and the costs to both the department and individual districts.
- The spending requirement that shifts the formula from a distribution formula to a spending formula
- Whether the \$250 reward would outweigh the cost to the district of tracking students
- Whether this new proposal had unknown consequences that would result
- Ensuring a reasonable timeline was created to implement any proposal incorporating the elements above

The next steps for the Subcommittee will be to draft some proposed recommendations and language for the full Task Force to approve. The goal is to have the draft language approved before the July meeting of the full Task Force.

The Subcommittee adjourned at 11:25 am with future date and time to be determined.