

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – ADMINISTRATIVE RULE SUMMARY**

**Title/OAR #:** Early Learning Professional Development Grant

**OAR 581-018-0575 to 581-018-0590**

**Date:** May 23, 2014

**Staff/Office:** Lisa Harnisch, Early Learning Division and Cindy Hunt, Deputy Superintendent's Office

**New Rule**       **Amend Existing Rule**       **Repeal Rule**

**Hearing Date:** May 29, 2014       **Hearings Officer Report Attached**

**Prompted by:**  **State law changes**       **Federal law changes**       **Other**

**Action Requested:**

**First Reading/Second Reading**       **Adoption**       **Adoption/Consent Agenda**

**PROPOSED/AMENDED RULE SUMMARY:**

The proposed rules implement the provisions of House Bill 3233 by establishing an Early Learning Professional Development Grant Program. The board previously adopted these rules as temporary rules.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2013, under the leadership of Governor John Kitzhaber, the Oregon Education Investment Board proposed key strategic investments to support Oregon's attainment of 40/40/20. Key to this work is a revitalization of the education profession and the establishment of a Network of Quality Teaching and Learning. Conceptualized and passed by legislature in HB 3233, the Network provides funding for a comprehensive system of support for educators that creates a culture of leadership, professionalism, continuous improvement and excellence for teachers and leaders across the P-20 system.

The rules establish the Early Learning Professional Development Grant program as one of the methods to address this specific direction in HB 3233. The purpose of the grant program is to provide early learning professional development opportunities that take into account the unique needs of this workforce. The grants will be awarded based on a detailed description of the proposed projects submitted through the RFP process.

The Early Learning Professional Development Grants for 2014-15 have two purposes:

1. Expand and scale up partnerships involving community colleges to create of early childhood stackable and portable certificates, credentials, and degree programs that prepare more non-traditional, dual language educators and that support more seamless transition from high school to degree completion.
2. Scale up AA degree programs to be flexible in meeting the needs of the existing early childhood workforce and provide a comprehensive array of supports to individuals completing degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Grants are competitive and awarded based on whether the applicant identifies how the funds will be used to reach the 40-40-20 goal and improve education outcomes for African American students as identified by the Oregon Education Investment Board Equity Lens document, in addition to whether the applicant demonstrates support, commitment and readiness for the design or revision of programming specifically for African American students.

Total funding available is \$400,000. It is anticipated that there will be up to 4 grantees based on funding available and the quality of the applications received.

**CHANGED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING?**

- N/A; first read—hasn't been before board
- No; the board previously adopted these rules as temporary rules
- Yes – As follows:

**Fiscal Impact:**

There will also be some cost to the Department of Education to administer the grant program. However, the cost is minimal.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- Adopt administrative rule at this meeting
- Adopt administrative rule at next meeting
- No recommendation at this time (rarely used)

## Early Learning Professional Development Grant

### 581-018-0575

#### Definitions

The following definitions apply to OAR 581-018-0575 to 581-018-0590:

- (1) “Early Learning workforce” means those individuals employed in the provision of services to children who are zero through six years of age.
- (2) “Equity Lens” means the Equity Lens adopted by the Oregon Education Investment Board and described in OAR 581-018-0010.
- (3) “Non-profit organization” means:
  - (a) An organization established as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Oregon; and
  - (b) Qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined in ORS 314.011.
- (4) “Postsecondary Institution” means a:
  - (a) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341.
  - (b) The following public universities within the Oregon University System:
    - (A) University of Oregon.
    - (B) Oregon State University.
    - (C) Portland State University.
    - (D) Oregon Institute of Technology.
    - (E) Western Oregon University.
    - (F) Southern Oregon University.
    - (G) Eastern Oregon University.
  - (c) Oregon Health and Science University.
  - (d) An Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.
- (5) “Underserved student” means a student (English language learner, student of color, an economically disadvantaged student or a student with disabilities) who has not historically considered enrolling in a post-secondary education program.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950

### 581-018-0578

#### Establishment

- (1) There is established the Early Learning Professional Development Grant Program to implement ORS 342.950(3)(i).
- (2) The Early Learning Professional Development Grant Program has the following purposes:
  - (a) To expand and scale up partnerships involving community colleges and undergraduate educator preparation programs at post-secondary institutions that are dedicated to creation of early childhood stackable and portable certificates, credentials, and degree programs that prepare more non-traditional dual language educators and that support more seamless transition from Associate of Arts (AA) to Bachelor of Arts (BA) completion.
  - (b) To scale up AA/BA degree programs that can flexibly meet the needs of the existing early childhood workforce and provide a comprehensive array of supports to individuals completing degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950

### **581-018-0581**

#### **Eligibility**

- (1) The following types of organizations may apply for funding:
  - (a) Post-secondary institutions;
  - (b) Non-profit organizations; and
  - (c) Providers of early learning services.
- (2) A single grant proposal may include more than one eligible applicant, but the lead applicant must be one of the eligible applicants identified in subsection (1) of this rule.
- (3) Each grant proposal must contain at least one post-secondary institution as a partner in the proposal.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950

### **581-018-0584**

#### **Criteria**

- (1) Applicants for grant funds must demonstrate a commitment and readiness to design or revise programming that address the following features:
  - (a) Transferability across post-secondary institutions;
  - (b) Provide direct support for students; and
  - (c) Program designed for underserved students.
- (2) Priority for funding shall be given to applicants that have met the grant requirements along with the following considerations regarding communities to be served by the grant:
  - (a) Communities that have a high percentage of culturally or linguistically diverse young children;
  - (b) Communities that have a high percentage of culturally or linguistically diverse candidates in the local early childhood workforce;
  - (c) Location of the community to support geographic diversity among the recipients of grant program funds across the state.
- (3) Consideration shall also be given to whether the grant application identifies how the funds will be used to improve education outcomes identified by the Oregon Education Investment Board, contained in achievement compacts or set forth in ORS 351.009.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950

### **581-018-0587**

#### **Funding**

- (1) The Department of Education shall determine for each fiscal year the portion of the funds available for the Early Learning Professional Development.
- (2) Funds received under this section must be separately accounted for and may be used only to provide funding for the purposes described in the application of the grant recipient.
- (3) The Department shall determine the amount of the grant based on the merits of the designed programs and alignment of the criteria.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950

**581-018-0590****Reporting**

Recipients of the Early Learning Professional Development grant funds must report on the grant to the Department of Education and Oregon Education Investment Board. The report must include:

- (1) Evidence toward meeting defined outcomes as articulated in the grant; and
- (2) Description of outputs and activities related to creation of Early Learning Professional Development program.
- (3) Data related to the impact of the project on students, teachers and community partners. These data may include but are not limited to the following:
  - (a) Number of students enrolled in the program(s).
  - (b) Interviews or surveys conducted by Department staff or evaluators.
  - (c) Data on specific measures of teacher knowledge and skills related to project outcomes.

Stat. Auth. ORS 342.950

Stat. Implemented: ORS 342.950



ROB S. SAXTON  
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

BEFORE THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RULE HEARING: OAR 581-018-0575 to 581-018-0590  
Early Learning Professional Development Grant

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Department held a public hearing on May 29, 2014, to receive public comment on the proposed rule amendments. Notice of hearing was published in a timely manner in the Secretary of State's bulletin and was sent to interested parties and persons who requested notice pursuant to ORS 183.335 (7). The hearing was held at the Department's offices in Salem, Oregon before Emily Nazarov, Hearing Officer.

There was no testimony.

Respectfully submitted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014

Emily Nazarov  
Hearing Officer