

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – ADMINISTRATIVE RULE SUMMARY

Title/OAR #: 6.c—Regional Promise Replication Grant Programs, OAR 581-017-0350 to 581-017-0362

Date: October 21, 2015

Staff/Office: Jennell Ives, ISAA

New Rule Amend Existing Rule Repeal Rule

Hearing Date: N/A 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 State Board adopted Temporary Rules at the September 17, 2015 State Board meeting. This is the First Reading of Administrative Rules to implement the provision of Senate Bill 217. SB 217 amended laws relating to the strategic initiatives including the Eastern Promise Replication Grant.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, HB 3232 established strategic investments in three areas:

Oregon Early Reading Program

Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations Program

Connecting to the World of Work Program

The 2015 Legislature adopted SB 217. SB 217 continued funding for the former Eastern Promise Replication Grant. The legislation and Department budget stipulated that the grant was intended for Regional Promise Grants and could no longer fund the Eastern Promise Program.

The Regional Promise Grant of 2015-2017 is intended for the development and/or expansion of consortia of education service districts, school districts and post-secondary institutions building collaborative, innovative, and flexible ways to foster a college-going culture across the region and to create additional opportunities for high school students to participate and earn credit in college-level courses. Each consortium will plan to serve either at least 10,000 students **or** 50% or more of 5th -12th grade students in school districts participating in the grant.

During the 2013-15 biennium the Regional Promise Grant funded the following consortia:

Grant Awardee	Dollars Awarded
Connected Lane Pathways (Lane County ESD)	\$250,000
Willamette Promise (Willamette ESD)	\$500,000
Central Oregon Better Together (High Desert ESD)	\$445,000

Portland Metro Connects (PSU PCC)	\$445,000
Southern Oregon Promise (Southern Oregon ESD)	\$250,000

As a result of the grant, 5,300 students earned accelerated college credit, 72 professional learning communities were created with 310 high school teachers and 134 college faculty participating, and over 10,000 students participated in college going activities including college success courses, career events, AVID programs, and college visits.

The rule amendments impact the following:

- Change the name of Eastern Promise Replication grant to Regional Promise Program Grant.
- Change membership of consortia to be less prescriptive – still requires an ESD, at least three school districts, and a post-secondary institution of higher education.
- Gives competitive priority to consortia that include both a local community college and a four-year university.
- Change “achievement gap” to “opportunity gap” to better describe the problem the grant addresses;
- Add language to focus on the goal of increasing the number of historically underserved students participating in accelerated college credit courses.
- Change implementation of grant funding to align with the five components of the Regional Promise Program (moving away from the Eastern Promise language).
- Include acknowledgement of previously funded programs and priority for continued funding.

Rules were adopted as Temporary Rules in September 2015. The Request for Applications was released on September 17, 2015. A technical assistance webinar was provided to potential applicants. Applications are due October 20, 2015.

ISSUES/CONCERNS THAT SURFACED DURING RULE WORK

There is a concern among community colleges about removing the requirement for participation from both a community college and a four-year university. This concern is addressed by giving competitive priority to consortia that include both a local community college and a public university.

There is also a requirement in the proposal for a grantee to provide a plan for including any missing partner in their consortium, *i.e.* how they will involve either a community college and 4-year university in the future, if either of those partners is missing.

There is concern among some in the higher education community about the earning of “proficiency” college credits. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) convened a work group to create a broader set of standards for dual credit and other types of accelerated college credit.

These new standards may be adopted by December or January. The grant application asks consortia to develop a plan for meeting any new standards established by the HECC. Monthly meetings with grant managers are part of the grant process. Grantees will be kept informed of any new standards and supported in meeting these new standards.

CHANGED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING? (so members can focus on what’s different)

- N/A; first read—hasn’t been before board
- No; same as last month
- Yes – As follows:

FISCAL IMPACT: None

EFFECT OF YES VOTE: The grant making process would move forward as planned.

EFFECT OF NO VOTE: The grant making process could be delayed and consortia may have to delay plans and programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt administrative rule as prepared this month
- Adopt administrative rule next month
- No recommendation at this time (rarely used)

Comments:

Created by CH on 8/28/15

Regional Promise Program Grant

581-017-0350

Definitions

The following definitions apply to OAR 581-017-0350 to 581-017-0362:

(1) “Consortium” means the equal partnership developed to form the cross-sector collaboration between eligible educational institutions.

(2) “Opportunity Gap” means the gap in opportunities that often exists between students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, students learning English as a second language, African American, Hispanic or Native American when compared to their peers who do not share these characteristics. This can often lead to a gap in achievement (state test scores in reading, writing, and mathematics as well as diploma and post-secondary degree attainment).

(3) “Postsecondary Institution” means:

(a) A community college operated under ORS chapter 341 or,

(b) The following public universities:

(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

(H) Oregon Health and Science University

(c) An Oregon-based accredited not-for-profit institution of higher education

~~(2) “Proximity” means the four-year institution participating in the program will have a branch campus located within 150 miles of their community college partners’ regional borders.~~

(4) “Private post-secondary institution” means” an Oregon-based, generally accredited, not-for-profit institution of higher education.

~~(4) “Public post-secondary institution” means:~~

~~(a) 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.~~

(b) Oregon Health and Science University.

(5) “Significant population” means to serve the majority of underserved students within the consortiums region.

(6) “Underserved student” means a student (English language learner, student of color, an economically disadvantaged student or a student with disabilities) who has not historically taken high school accelerated courses and may not have considered enrolling in a post-secondary education program.

(7) “Variety” means students having access to a choice of courses offered in core academic subjects, in different forums (which include yet are not limited to distance learning, high school campus, college campus, by proficiency assessment or through credit for prior learning), that are eligible for transfer.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 327.800

Stat. Implemented: ORS 327.820

Hist.: ODE 3-2014(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 2-19-14 thru 8-17-14; ODE 29-2014, f. & cert. ef. 6-24-14

581-017-0353

Regional ~~Eastern~~ Promise ~~Replication~~ Grant Program Establishment

(1) The ~~Eastern-Regional~~ Promise ~~Replication~~ Grant is established as part of the Connecting the World to Work Program Strategic Investment under ORS 327.820.

(2) The purposes of the grant are to:

(a) Connect students to the World of Work and post-secondary education/training opportunities;

(b) Develop consortiums of school districts, education service districts and post-secondary institutions of higher education committed to developing innovative and flexible pathways for students in grades 6 through 12 and in community colleges; and

(c) Distribute moneys to ~~consortiums~~ consortia that include at least three school districts, at least one education service district, ~~at least one community college and~~ at least one public ~~or private~~ post-secondary institution of higher education to design and deliver individualized, innovative and flexible ways of delivering content, awarding high school and college credit, and increasing the number of historically underserved students participating in accelerated college credit courses. ~~and providing development education for students in high school or in the first two years of post-secondary education.~~

Stat. Auth.: ORS 327.800

Stat. Implemented: ORS 327.820

Hist.: ODE 3-2014(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 2-19-14 thru 8-17-14; ODE 29-2014, f. & cert. ef. 6-24-14

581-017-0356

Eligibility

The Department of Education shall allocate funds for the ~~Eastern Regional Promise Replication~~ Program grant to ~~consortia~~ ums that consist of at least three school districts, at least one education service district, ~~at least one community college and~~ at least one public ~~or private~~ post-secondary institution.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 327.800

Stat. Implemented: ORS 327.820

Hist.: ODE 3-2014(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 2-19-14 thru 8-17-14; ODE 29-2014, f. & cert. ef. 6-24-14

581-017-0359

Implementation of Grant Funding

(1) The Department of Education will make awards between ~~\$300~~465,000 and ~~\$75~~650,000 (adjusted by justifiable need) ~~for use during the 2014-2015 school year~~ for replication of the Eastern Promise program.

(2) The Oregon Department of Education shall establish a request for proposal solicitation and approval process to be conducted for the ~~Eastern Regional Promise Replication~~ program funds. All proposals will comply with the requirements of ORS 327.800 and 327.820(3)(a)(D) and rules adopted to implement those sections.

(3) Awards will be based on the following criteria:

(a) Whether the proposal identifies how the funds will be used to reach the 40-40-20 goal by using a regional approach and strengthening relationships and aligning outcomes and expectations across education sectors to implement the 5 main components of the Regional Promise Program (based on the 5 pillars of Eastern Promise). ~~replicating the core pillars of Eastern Promise early college experiences and Professional Learning Communities.~~

(b) Whether the applicant proposal demonstrates support, commitment and readiness to design or revise programming specifically targeted at closing [equity opportunity](#) gaps.

~~(b) Whether the applicant proposal demonstrates support, commitment and readiness to design or revise programming specifically for offering early college experiences and developing Professional Learning Communities.~~

(c) Whether there is a commitment to cross-sector collaboration between education service district(s), school districts, and post-secondary institutions of higher education.

~~(c) Whether there is a commitment to cross-sector collaboration between a university, community college(s), education service district(s), and districts where each partner is engaged as an equal partner.~~

(d) Whether there is a commitment [and capacity](#) to ~~providing~~[provide](#) students with a variety of accelerated learning opportunities, such as on-campus experiences, dual credit, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and to ensuring students receive support and specific instruction around the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to be successful in college-level coursework.

(e) Whether there is a commitment ~~to~~ [and capacity](#) to ~~developing~~ cross-sector professional learning, including faculty and teachers from ~~the university, community post-secondary~~ [college institution](#) and ESD/high schools of like disciplines. The consortium will ensure that all levels of instruction are represented and participate in discussing and establishing the appropriate curriculum, [instruction, and](#) ~~and in developing appropriate and~~ [parallel](#) shared assessment ~~parameters~~ to measure outcomes.

(f) Whether there is a commitment [and capacity](#) to ~~foster~~[building](#) a college-going culture, which refers to the environment, attitudes, and practices in schools and communities that encourage students and their families to obtain the information, tools, and perspective to enhance access to and success in postsecondary education. The applicant should describe a plan for one or more, programs servicing students, beginning in middle grades, that:

(A) Helps students learn about options for their future, careers and the education they require;

(B) Convey the expectation that all students can prepare for the opportunity to attend and be successful in post-secondary education; and

(C) Ensure schools, families, and communities give students the same message of high expectations for their future.

(4) The Department shall give priority to proposals that meet the minimum criteria and:

(a) ~~P~~ Previously funded projects that will use the grant to ensure sustainability of the program.

(b) The extent to which the applicant clearly documents its capacity to implement and carry out programming ~~to replicate pillars of the Eastern Promise program.~~

(5) The Department of Education shall allocate funds for the grant program based on the evaluation of the grant application and the following considerations:

~~(a) Programs representing the five main components of the core pillars of the Eastern~~ Regional Promise Early College Experience Program.

(b) Competitive priority will be given to applications that include both a local community college and a 4-year university in their consortium.

~~(bc)~~ Programs that exhibit innovative and flexible ways of delivering content, awarding high school and college credit and providing development education for students in high school or in the first two years of post-secondary education.

~~(ed)~~ The number of students the ~~Early College Experience~~ Regional Promise Program program will serve.

~~(de)~~ Programs with a detailed process to identify, enroll, support and retain underserved students.

~~(ef)~~ Programs that have a high level of underserved students who historically have not taken college credit in high school. ~~accelerated courses.~~

~~(fg)~~ Geographic locations of the program organization to ensure geographic representation of the targeted student groups are included throughout the state.

~~(6) Each award may be between \$465300,000 and \$650750,000, which shall be given during the following phases based on a detailed budget narrative and budget template:~~

~~(a) Planning and Implementation phase~~

~~(b) Evaluation phase.~~

(7) Grant recipients shall use funds received for the planning, implementation, and evaluation ~~phases~~ of the grant for activities outlined in the request for proposal.

~~(8) Grant recipients must be able to expend the funds for allowable purposes specified in the request for proposal within the grant timeline according to acceptable accounting procedures. by June 30, 2017.5. Under certain circumstances, ODE can approve use of funds until September 30, 2017.~~

(9) Grant recipients will document and account for each student participating in, enrolled in, and completing accelerated college courses supported by the grant before the final distribution of grant funds.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 327.800

Stat. Implemented: ORS 327.820

Hist.: ODE 3-2014(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 2-19-14 thru 8-17-14; ODE 29-2014, f. & cert. ef. 6-24-14

581-017-0362

Timelines and Performance Measures

The Eastern-Regional Promise program shall provide award recipients a template for an interim, legislative, and final grant report. Recipients are required to submit the interim and final all reports and teacher and student data report prior to ~~receive~~ their final request for funds.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 327.800

Stat. Implemented: ORS 327.820

Hist.: ODE 3-2014(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 2-19-14 thru 8-17-14; ODE 29-2014, f. & cert. ef. 6-24-14