

HB 3499 B requires new state activities related to programs and state funds for English Language Learner (ELL) students. Specifically, the bill requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to convene two groups: an advisory group to address budget and spending issues related to English Language Learners (ELLs) and a work group to provide guidance on ELL programs. It also establishes a system of supports and interventions for districts not meeting the needs of ELLs based on the recommendations of the work group. Following are additional details about the major components of HB 3499 B.

The ELL Budget Reporting Advisory Group is responsible for creating uniform budget coding and reporting requirements regarding the use of weighted ESL funds. This will provide greater transparency in the way these funds are used by districts and allow districts and the state the ability to consistently track weighted ESL fund expenses by district. The ELL Budget Reporting Advisory Group will present rules to the State Board of Education no later than January 1, 2016.

The ELL Programs Work Group is responsible for two separate pieces of work. First, the Work Group is tasked with identifying:

- criteria that will be used to determine which districts are not meeting the needs of their ELL students;
- information districts will include in an annual progress report to ODE on ELL outcomes;
- types of technical assistance that will be provided to districts that are not meeting the needs of their ELLs; and
- guidelines for how the districts will be required to spend their ESL weighted funding.

The State Board of Education is supposed to adopt rules related to the above work by January 1, 2016, and ODE will identify districts in need of technical assistance and support based upon the criteria adopted by the State Board of Education and district reports. In consultation with identified districts, ODE will establish expected student progress benchmarks and provide a system of progressive interventions for each identified district.

Secondly, the Work Group is expected to establish criteria for identifying long-term ELLs and to develop recommendations related to best practices in the following areas:

- supporting ELLs who are no longer eligible for or enrolled in an ELL program, or who are long-term ELLs;
- engaging parents of English language learners;
- identifying English language learners prior to their enrollment in Kindergarten;
- assessing English language learners, including recommendations on appropriate assessment accommodations; and
- acquiring library books in languages other than English.

The State Board of Education is supposed to adopt rules related to the above work by January 1, 2017.

ODE staff must create a legislative report by January 1 of each odd numbered year that includes data on districts' ELL expenditures and ELL outcomes from the previous two years.

The bill also establishes a Statewide English Language Learner Program in the State Treasury. Each biennium ODE will transfer 12.5 million from the State School Fund to the Statewide English Language Learner Program.

For more information, click here:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?ID=13050>