



ROB S. SAXTON
Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction

BEFORE THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

RULE HEARING: **OAR 5821-022-1620, Required Instructional Time / 581-021-0102, Definition of Instructional Time / OAR 581-022-1131, Credit Options**

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT
(Amended)

The Department held a public hearing on **November 21, 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.

Testimony:

Hanna Vaandering, President, Oregon Education Association

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Betty Reynolds, Vice President for Legislation, Oregon PTA

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Steve Callaway, Principal, Tobias Elementary, Hillsboro School District

- Appreciates need for increased instructional time. For too long, school districts have had to cut days due to inadequate funding.
- In spite of reduced funding and cut days, Tobias Elementary is seeing student achievement increase at all grades and across all subject areas. Progress is being made towards closing the achievement gap. Students who receive special services are performing at levels closer to their peers who do not receive special services. Students of color are achieving at levels that are closer to their Caucasian peers. Mr. Callaway believes increases are due to the fact that teachers are working together, planning together, operating professional learning communities, and receiving professional development that is targeted, specific, and purposeful. In Hillsboro School District, at elementary level, this work happens during early release on every Wednesday afternoon.
- A key predictor of a student's success is the partnership between the student's parents and classroom teachers.

- If definition of instructional time does not include time for professional development and collaboration or parent teacher conferences, these things that are having the most impact on student achievement may be reduced or eliminated.
- Asks that all changes be delayed until we know what legislature is willing to fund.

Sarah Coyle, Secondary Teacher, Hillsboro School District

- Teachers support a longer school year and more time on task to aid student learning.
- Proposed regulations would go into place before the legislative funding decisions have been made. Teachers are concerned they will again face new policy implementation without necessary funding.
- On task time is important but it must be quality time that is well crafted.
- Students cannot afford for their parents and teachers to lose valuable conference time. Conferences are one of the most valuable tools she has to serve students.
- Please postpone action until we have a better understanding of fiscal implications.

Michelle Zundel, Principal, Ashland High School

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Morgan Allen, Oregon School Boards Association

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Caroline Fenn, Parents Coalition

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Mike Rosen, Parents Coalition

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Chuck Bennett, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators

- Endorsed comments by Morgan Allen and the Oregon School Boards Association.
- COSA believes Oregon needs to make a significant investment instructional time. In grades 1-12 Oregon offers one year less than the national average.
- COSA recommends the State Board slow down and conduct a thorough and truly collaborative process that results in a plan to get Oregon at least to the national average and includes necessary funding and phasing in of implementation.
- Schools are currently experiencing a fragile stability with regard to financial resources. Proposed changes would add significant costs in many districts. Would also disrupt programs and schedules that have strong community support. Proposal does not include funding. By adopting proposed rule revisions, State Board would significantly undermine what stability school districts do have. The proposal represents a significant unfunded mandate.
- Provided written comments from districts across the state – see attached.

- COSA is concerned that the stakeholder group did not reflect the variety of issues faced by districts statewide. The group included only parents from Portland Public Schools and only limited numbers of teachers and administrators who are best positioned to describe the impacts of this rule. COSA believes process should start over.
- COSA recommends state board review adoption timeline. The current schedule coincides with end of term and holiday break and limits ability of districts and parents to give meaningful feedback.

Toya Fick, Stand for Children

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.
- Also submitted written testimony from the Lane County chapter of Stand for Children and the Salem Keizer chapter of Stand for Children – see attached.

Courtney Clements, Stand for Children Member, Lake Oswego Chapter

- Endorsed Stand for Children comments submitted by Toya Fick.
- Supports increasing instructional time.
- Concerned about cost of implementation. Asks State Board to work with districts to help implement this proposal without causing undue financial strain to districts.

Elida Martinez, Stand for Children Leader, Reynolds Chapter

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Deborah Barnes, President, North Clackamas Education Association

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Matt Utterback, Superintendent, North Clackamas School District

- Submitted written testimony – See attached.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of December, 2014



Emily Nazarov
Hearing Officer