

House Bill 3499 English Language Learner Strategic Plan

78th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session

House Bill 3499 directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and implement a statewide education plan for English Language Learners who are in our K-12 education system. The plan will address disparities experienced by English Language Learners in every indicator of academic success, from the historical practices leading to disproportionate outcomes for the students to the educational needs of the students from K-12 education, by examining and applying culturally appropriate best practices.

As part of the plan, HB 3499 requires the following:

- Directs the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide plan to support students eligible for and enrolled in an English language learner program. Creates the Statewide English Language Learner (ELL) Program Account for statewide activities related to English language learner programs. Funds account with an ongoing \$12.5 million "carve out" from the State School Fund each biennium (funding found in HB 5017).
- Directs Oregon Department of Education to convene an advisory group and adopt rules related to developing uniform budget coding requirements and uniform reporting requirements to provide budget transparency for the spending of moneys received by school districts as provided by the poverty weight in the State School Fund. The State Board of Education is directed to adopt coding administrative rules no later than January 1, 2016.
- Directs ODE to convene a work group related to the English language learner program policy. The work group must consist of educators, parents, community stakeholders, experts on English language learner policy and experts in collecting and analyzing data. The work group shall identify criteria for determining if a school district is not meeting the needs of students and needs targeted assistance; how school districts shall expend the funds received; and identify culturally appropriate best practices.
- Directs ODE to adopt rules regarding school interventions no later than January 1, 2016 and on long term best practices no later than January 1, 2017.
- Directs school districts to annually report, by September 1 of each year, allocations and expenditures related to English language learner programs; student demographics and progress. Directs ODE to report on data collected from school districts prior to January 1 of odd numbered years.

For more information about House Bill 3499 and the English Language Learner Strategic Plan please contact Project Coordinator – Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom at rudyane.lindstrom@ode.state.or.us or 503-947-5617.