

# Measure 98

High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act of 2016

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## Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQs document will be updated as new information becomes available.

### **1. What is Measure 98 and when does it go into effect?**

- Measure 98 is a 2016 ballot initiative approved by the voters that provides direct funding to school districts to increase high school graduation rates.
- Measure 98 identifies three specific areas where districts must direct Measure 98 funds:
  - establish or expand career and technical education programs in high schools
  - establish or expand college-level educational opportunities for students in high schools
  - establish or expand dropout-prevention strategies in high schools
- Measure 98 goes into effect 30 days after the November 8, 2016 election.
- By March 1, 2017, the State Board of Education shall adopt rules to address eligibility requirements, biennial plan guidelines, biennial plan submission deadlines, reporting criteria, and audit processes. A district planning template and associated guidance should follow a few weeks after the rules are adopted.
- By July 2, 2017 the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund (fund) will be established.
- Funds will be available to districts for the 2017-18 school year. The exact timing of the distribution is not yet determined.

### **2. Are districts required to apply for Measure 98 funds?**

No. A school district may choose not to submit a biennial plan for raising high school graduation rates. However, districts that do not submit a biennial plan will not receive any Measure 98 funds.

### **3. How will the funding be calculated and awarded?**

- In May 2017, the Office of Economic Analysis will present the economic and revenue forecast estimate. The Fund will be established based upon state revenues exceeding the previous biennial revenue amount by \$1.5 billion.
- On a statewide basis, \$800 per student, grades 9-12 will be used to establish the total value of the fund.
- Once the fund is established by the Legislature, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) will calculate allocations based upon the State School Fund formula (ADMw). As a result of unique circumstances of a particular school district, allocations could be above or below the \$800 per student.
- A school district will receive funds under Measure 98 if the school district submits a biennial plan for increasing high school graduation rates using the three identified strategies. A district's biennial plan must be approved by the ODE.
- The funds will be released through the ODE E-Grant Management System (EGMS).
- All claims will be based upon a reimbursement system consistent with existing ODE state and federal funding requirements and processes.

**4. Why are Career and Technical Education (CTE), College-level Educational Opportunities, and Dropout Prevention the key strategies for Measure 98?**

- According to the Oregon Voters' Pamphlet, all three strategies are evidence-based and collectively support the needs of students related to engagement, personalization, achievement, and college and career readiness. Collectively and systematically implemented, these strategies could significantly impact a student's high school experience and "next steps" opportunities.
- Even though some of the funded media spots identified solely CTE in messaging, the Measure 98 language is clear that districts are to address all three areas.

**5. In the Measure, "establish and expand" language is used. If a school district is at capacity in regard to CTE programs, college-level educational opportunities, or dropout-prevention strategies, is the school district required to develop additional programs, or can it expand / retool the existing programs under Measure 98?**

- As school districts identify and implement evidence-based practices for their biennial plans, the districts are to establish and expand current programs beyond the 2016-17 service level. Expanding, elevating, enhancing, and/or re-tooling a program would be allowed; however, backfilling the budget with Measure 98 funds for programs that were established prior to the effective date of Measure 98 is not allowed.
- Small schools may have barriers in access, resources, and capacity and therefore, they are encouraged to collaborate with other partners to assist in meeting their goals and objectives.

**6. Will Measure 98 have flexibility in the development of models in 1) career and technical education, 2) college-level educational opportunities, and 3) dropout-prevention strategies?**

Yes. This is a new opportunity to examine, share, and collaborate on best practices. High schools, school districts, education service districts (ESDs), consortia, community college partners, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) hubs and others, could come together and develop innovative models such as: regional centers, virtual partnerships, hybrid courses, or online instruction, etc.

**7. How are stakeholders being engaged in Measure 98 implementation?**

- Stakeholders will provide feedback and assist in guiding and shaping the specifics of Measure 98 through the Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) rulemaking process.
- The stakeholders may include a wide range of interested parties from school administrators, families, teachers, education leaders and community organizations to business and industry members and key advocates.

**8. What is the public comment period and timeline for the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) development for Measure 98?**

- ODE will host a Rulemaking Advisory Group on December 6, 2016.
- The State Board of Education will review and adopt the Administrative Rules specific to Measure 98 at scheduled board meetings:
  - January 26, 2017 -- First reading of proposed rules
  - February 23, 2017 -- Second reading and adoption of rules
- A formal public hearing on the proposed rules will be held on January 30, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., at the Oregon Department of Education (255 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97310) in Room 251A/B.
- Public comment on the rules may be made at the State Board meetings, at the formal hearing on January 30, 2017, or at any time before the rules are adopted by submitting comments in writing to Emily Nazarov at [emily.nazarov@state.or.us](mailto:emily.nazarov@state.or.us).

**9. Will there be an email listserv and webpage in order to send updates and provide an archive of communications?**

- Yes; subscribe to the listserv by completing the form at [http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/measure\\_98\\_updates](http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/measure_98_updates).
- Measure 98 webpage - <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=5598>

**10. How can I be involved?**

Connect and engage with your local school district or high school, and/or provide feedback at the State Board of Education public hearings.

**Round # 2 - Frequently Asked Questions**

**11. Is Measure 98 funding based on a competitive application model?**

- No. Measure 98 funding is based upon successful submission and approval of the school district's biennial plan for raising high school graduation rates. The allocation is based on the school district's Average Daily Membership weighted (ADMw) formula, similar to the State School Fund.

**12. What are the administrative allowances that school districts will be able to utilize for program implementation?**

- a. School districts are allowed to retain up to 5 percent of the funds for the administration and implementation of the new programs for the first two years (2017-2018 and 2018-2019), and 4 percent every year thereafter.
- b. In the first two years, the expenditures related to the development of activities, programs, and/or initiatives may be supported with Measure 98 funds. However, the oversight and administration in future years would be considered administrative in nature and would not qualify for the 4 percent allowance

**13. Will the Oregon Department of Education provide support services and technical assistance to assist in the training, development, approval, and evaluation of the biennial plans?**

- a. ODE is planning to provide webinars, technical assistance, and training as related to the implementation of Measure 98.
- b. The policy and process for the biennial plan are currently being developed; information will be posted on the ODE website  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ode/learning-options/CTE/statefund/Pages/Measure98.aspx> .

**14. Is there flexibility for school districts to adjust their activities, program development, and implementation (year-to-year) within the biennial plans?**

- Measure 98 allows for flexibility within the school district's plan. It is understood that districts have variables that are specific to their size and location. Amendments will be approved based upon the requirements of the law and the vision and growth continuum of the district's plan.

**15. If a school district establishes a program or initiative with their first biennial plan 2017-2019, are they allowed to utilize Measure 98 funding in their subsequent biennial plans 2019-2021 to maintain and sustain those programs that were developed as a result of Measure 98 in 2017?**

- Yes. The programs being offered must be established and expanded after the law was enacted. Continuing the programs and utilizing subsequent funding from Measure 98 dollars will be supported; however, continuous improvement and expansion are fundamental to the law.

**16. How do alternative education and special education programs fit into Measure 98 funding?**

- a. Measure 98 funding is allocated to school districts, not to programs.
- b. The students in these programs are included in the district-level student counts and data. It is expected that alternative education and special education students will benefit from a school district's efforts in providing services in the three specific areas of CTE programs, college-level educational opportunities, and dropout-prevention strategies.
- c. There could be a variety of activities that are developed and funded based upon the school district's biennial plan. It is expected that the special education services offered through the biennial plans will exceed the 2016-2017 service level and are in addition to the current state and federal mandated special education requirements.

**17. Are Oregon charter schools eligible to receive Measure 98 funding for students in grades 9-12?**

- Yes. Charter schools are eligible to receive Measure 98 funds. A charter school must serve students in grades 9-12 and meet the eligibility requirements. A charter school could choose to submit a plan or join in the sponsoring district's plan.

**18. Is a school district allowed to use Measure 98 funds for grades below 9-12?**

- a. The activities, programs, and/or initiatives are to provide services to grade 9-12 level students.
- b. Funds may be used for students the summer after their grade 8 school year. Specifically, funds are to be used for:
  - i. Examination of attendance, course grades, credits earned and disciplinary referrals to identify students needing extra supports.
  - ii. Beginning in the summer after grade 8, districts are to provide academic and social supports for students.
- c. Measure 98 funds are not allowed to be used for activities and/or programs for students in grades PK-8 except as mentioned above. Districts will be encouraged to leverage other funding sources to make a comprehensive plan for all students.

**19. Is a school district allowed to use Measure 98 funds for students that have graduated?**

- The activities, programs, and/or initiatives are to provide services to students in grades 9-12 who have not received their high school diploma.

**20. Could a school district utilize Measure 98 funding to develop mentoring, Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), clubs, summer programs, internships, apprenticeships, after school programs, and other co-curricular activities?**

Yes. Co-curricular student organizations are evidenced based and integral to CTE instruction.

**21. Can Measure 98 funds be used for teachers, instructional assistants, and other personnel costs?**

- a. Yes. If a school district identifies a strategy that requires staffing to complete the activity, then the cost of staffing (FTE) could be a justified expense.
- b. The program would have to be expanded/established after enactment of Measure 98.
- c. There is a 5 percent administrative allowance in 2017-2019 and 4 percent each year thereafter. School districts should plan accordingly.