



2025 Legislative Concept Proposal LC 508: Oregon Administrator Scholars Program

Problem

The legislature has made it a goal of the state to have a diverse educator workforce that reflects the diversity of the state's students (ORS 342.437). The purpose of the Oregon Administrator Scholarship Program, currently administered by TSPC, is to reduce barriers to education careers for culturally and linguistically diverse school administrator candidates. There is persistent evidence that financial barriers for culturally and linguistically diverse individuals continues to prevent the state from achieving its goals of a diverse educator workforce. Furthermore, administrator and school personnel careers are critical in providing support for instructional and well-being needs of students, particularly students from underserved and under-resourced populations.

HECC, as the principal administrator of state financial aid opportunities, and the agency administering a similar program for aspiring and diverse teacher candidates, may be better positioned to administer this program.

Background

The Oregon Educator Advancement Council (EAC) receives funds for the Oregon Teachers Scholarship Program (OTSP) (ORS 348.295) which is co-administered with HECC. Funding is disbursed to HECC by the EAC for awarding to eligible students. The EAC and the HECC, its partner in administering the scholarships, do not have statutory authority to provide scholarships to administrators or other school personnel.

The OASP and OTSP are very similar because the eligibility requirements are based on the cultural and language diversity of the applicants. The administrative requirements are also similar for both programs. TSPC has experienced some difficulties in administering the program and lacks the ability to send student awards directly to institutions for credit on tuition and fee bills, but awarding financial aid to students is a core part of HECC's mission.

Proposed Solution

HECC has the student financial aid processing system in place and technical expertise required to administer the OASP program efficiently, within the same structure as OTSP. The legislative concept provides HECC the statutory authorization to do so. The Governor's Recommended Budget recognizes the budget impact of this transition.