Analysis

Item 10: Department of Education

Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement

Analyst: Doug Wilson

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for up to $1.75 million for an Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools grant.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Education (ODE) is requesting approval to submit a federal grant application for up to $1.75 million to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a five-year Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools grant. The overall goal of the grant is to work with school districts to strengthen school wellness strategies to improve student health, decrease absenteeism, and increase academic achievement. ODE would partner with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), specifically in the areas of local wellness policies and developing standards of care for students with various chronic conditions. This grant, if awarded, would in part build on efforts of a previous five-year federal grant (funded through June 2018) administered by OHA, but will focus more around activities through schools. Five to ten school districts will be selected where the efforts will be concentrated.

At this point, ODE is still working on the specifics of the grant proposal. Initial ideas on using the funds include: (1) continuing funding a limited duration School Wellness Coordinator position at ODE responsible for coordinating school wellness efforts across state government, (2) assisting school districts in their efforts, (3) insuring data collection, (4) statewide outreach and educational efforts, and (5) providing any grant administrative duties. Funding would also be directed to OHA for development of statewide standards of care for chronic disease management and for collecting data through the School Health Profiles Survey and Oregon Healthy Teens Survey. Five to ten school districts would also receive funding for local activities.

There are no state or local match requirements for this grant. Applications were initially due at the end of January 2018, but that date may be delayed by the CDC. It is anticipated that 19 grants will be awarded in this national competitive grant process.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.
Request: Authorization to apply for a $350,000 annual grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control when final grant notice is released.

Recommendation: Approve the request contingent on the final application submitted by the Department of Education.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is requesting authorization to apply for a federal grant to increase student daily physical activity and consumption of nutritious food and beverages. At the time this recommendation was written, the final federal notice detailing the grant was pending. ODE would like to apply for the grant to continue and focus work undertaken by an existing five-year grant received by the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division (OHA-PHD) and shared with ODE. The existing grant ends on June 30, 2018.

This recommendation describes the basic outline of the proposal under consideration by ODE, which may change following the final federal notice. The application deadline is January 26, 2018. The new grant requires state education agencies to take the lead for implementing the grant, so ODE would be the lead agency with funding passed through to OHA-PHD. Unlike the existing grant, the new grant requires states to work on school-based chronic disease management. Like the existing grant, the new grant could run five years. The new grant could provide $350,000 annually and does not require a match. The original grant notice strongly encouraged leveraging local resources, such as the Department of Human Services, Oregon State University Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)-Education, the Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council, the Oregon Nurses Association, the local chapters of the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) and the Academy of Pediatrics and others. The new grant will focus on:

1. PE standards - (Senate Bill 4 (2017) laid out timelines for schools to meet PE requirements)
2. Developing standards of care for chronic conditions

Although the final grant notice has not been posted, ODE has considered how it would use the grant. The largest share of the funding would support continuing an ODE position partially funded with the existing OHA-PHD grant. This position has worked on assessing school wellness environments, nutrition outside of meal programs, policy revision and implementation and physical activity. With the new grant, the position would function as a school wellness coordinator working with existing specialists in health and physical education and in school health/sexual health.

Like the current grant, the lead agency will send its partner funding. OHA-PHD would manage development of statewide standards of care for chronic disease management. The Division would also lead public health-related data collection using the School Health Profiles Survey and Oregon Healthy Teens Survey.

The remainder would be used for professional learning events and small grants to local education associations (LEAs). Between 5-10 LEAs would receive grants to create local level chronic disease management standards.
December 4, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of Request
The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) respectfully requests approval to apply for a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools.

Agency Action
The CDC Division of Population Health is soliciting applications for School Health grants to fund State Education Agencies (SEAs) to (1) increase the number of students who consume nutritious food and beverages; (2) increase the number of students who participate in daily physical education and physical activity; and (3) increase the number of students who can effectively manage their chronic health conditions.

Through this grant, the CDC will provide funding to support infrastructure development; professional development and training; and technical assistance over a five-year funding period. These strategies are intended to be implemented using a comprehensive, statewide approach, which would build on and strengthen current statewide and local school health efforts. In addition, five to ten local educational agencies (LEAs) will be selected to prioritize the work. The goal would be to work with the majority of elementary, middle, and high schools within the selected LEAs to strengthen school wellness strategies—specifically, nutrition, physical education, physical activity, and management of chronic conditions—with the intention of improving student health, decreasing absenteeism, and fostering academic achievement.
It is ODE’s intent that if awarded this federal grant, it will work in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, to focus on implementation of local wellness policies including nutrition standards; integrating comprehensive physical activity into the school day — before, during, and afterschool— including a focus on physical education in preparation for Senate Bill 4 (2017); and developing standards of care for students with chronic conditions like type 1 diabetes, asthma, seizures, and severe allergic reactions.

ODE and the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division have been working together over the last five years on a comprehensive CDC-funded five-year grant which focuses on public health actions to prevent and control diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and associated risk factors, and to promote school health. Whereas the OHA, Public Health Division was the lead government agency for this current grant, this new grant opportunity is specific to school health and the state education agency is designated as the lead government agency.

The grant allows for $350,000 per year for five years, with a 12-month budget. Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for this program. Although, leveraging other resources and related ongoing efforts to promote sustainability is strongly encouraged. The estimated start date is June 30, 2018.

**Agency Request**
Approve the Oregon Department of Education to apply for the federal grant of up to $1,750,000 from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools (CDC-RFA-DP18-1801).

**Legislation Affected**
None

Thank you for considering the approval of this request.

Sincerely,

Colt Gill
Acting Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction