

Measure 98

Explanatory Statement

Ballot Measure 98 requires state funds to be distributed to public school districts for approved plans to establish or expand career and technical education programs in high schools, to establish or expand college-level educational opportunities for students in high schools and to establish or expand dropout-prevention strategies in high schools.

The measure directs the Legislative Assembly to appropriate at least \$800 per enrolled high school student per school year for the distributions to school districts with approved plans. Funding would be adjusted each school year based on the cost to maintain the current level of performance. The measure creates no new revenue sources, and relies initially on growth of state General Fund revenue. If the state General Fund does not increase by at least \$1.5 billion in the next budget period, initial funding for the measure would be reduced and phased in over three years. In year three and beyond, state funding would be adjusted based on the cost to maintain the current level of performance. These adjustments would be made regardless of the amount of state revenue available.

A school district would receive funds under the measure if the school district submits a spending plan that says how its funds would be apportioned among the three program areas specified by the measure. A district's plan must be approved by the Department of Education every two years. A school district would receive distributions based on the state's current funding formula which takes into account the number of enrolled students in the school district and their characteristics. If a district applies but does not qualify, the Department of Education may use a portion of the funds to assist the district in preparing a qualifying plan. If a district does not apply or still does not qualify, the remaining funds will then be reallocated to other districts in subsequent years.

Distributions of funds to school districts under the measure are in addition to other funds provided to school districts by the state. These funds may not be used to maintain current school programs, opportunities or strategies, except when replacing a time-limited grant, federal funding or funds that support dual enrollment programs.

The measure directs the Department of Education to monitor the performance of school districts receiving distributions of funds under the measure, to intervene when necessary to ensure appropriate and effective uses of the funds and to facilitate continuous improvement in the uses of the funds by school districts.

The measure directs the Secretary of State to conduct biennial financial and program audits of the uses of the funds in improving the graduation rates of high school students and their readiness for college and careers. The Department of Education may retain up to 1.5 percent of the funds for oversight of the program for the first two years, and 1.25 percent thereafter. School districts may retain up to 5 percent of the funds for implementation of the new programs for the first two years, and 4 percent thereafter.

Committee Member Name	Appointed By
Greg Chaimov	Chief Petitioners
Tim Nesbitt	Chief Petitioners
Patrick Cowan	Secretary of State
Dave Hunt	Secretary of State
Cory Streisinger	Secretary of State