



Cover Memo

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner
Date: 06/03/2026
Item: 4

Issue

There is growing interest statewide in establishing consistent, immediate academic supports for students returning to school following a concussion or traumatic brain injury (TBI). To inform the Board's understanding of this work, presenters David Kracke and Melissa McCart will provide an overview of the legislation developed and implemented in Oregon, as well as insights from their ongoing efforts in other states.

Background

This discussion began after a previous State Board member connected with David Wilson, a medical advisory board member who highlighted growing interest in return-to-learn legislation in Alaska. Mr. Wilson then facilitated contact with Oregon representatives David Kracke and Melissa McCart, who were instrumental in developing and implementing Oregon's concussion and TBI return-to-learn statute. Although Alaska schools can provide supports through Section 504 and special education processes, these accommodations are not consistently or immediately applied statewide. Oregon's model offers a standardized system of temporary academic adjustments for students returning to school after a concussion or TBI, ensuring support while longer-term needs are evaluated. Early conversations in Alaska suggest that a legislative effort may be pursued next session, and the presenters have expressed interest in sharing their experience with the Board to inform consideration of the issue.

Options

This is an information item. No action is necessary.