

To those who impact my daughter's future:

I am the mother of a visually impaired 10-year-old, Clara Johansen, who is a 4th grader at Durham Elementary School in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. She is fully academic and exceeding grade-level benchmarks in school despite her visual acuity of 20/400 on a good day. She has Leber's Congenital Amaurosis. I attribute her success in school to her team of specialists provided by the NW Regional ESD providing her with the accommodations and support she needs to do well in school. This support is a combination of technology/equipment, teaching, and preparations made for her by these specialists. She currently has an ipad along with an Acrobat she uses in the classroom. She also attended a residential camp this summer and went to a day camp last summer all of these amazing and life changing experiences provided for her compliments of the BVIS fund.

Clara also played goal ball and connected with other blind and VI kids as a result of this. One high school student is currently emailing her with suggestions on how to "survive" high school as a VI kid as a result of her connection with her at goal ball. Clara has also attended track meets, and other activities that are all funded by the BVIS fund!!

I am EXTREMELY concerned about the proposal to use these funds to vision screen kids all over the state. Please understand that the kids that are being provided services through the ESD suffer from such extreme vision loss that they are identified long before they reach elementary school. If this \$\$ is used to screen and rule out kids who do not need these services it will bankrupt the fund in two years so no \$\$ will be available to help the kids it is intended to help. This just seems like a complete misappropriation of the money that is earmarked for blind and visually impaired kids. My daughter doesn't even participate in vision screening at her school because it is a waste of time and humiliating for her! As a volunteer at her school I have participated in the vision screening and kids we have identified with vision problems can correct them with glasses. Most of the vision kids being provided services through the ESD can not be corrected with glasses!! Please reconsider your proposal and use the money for the kids this was intended for and who will benefit for a lifetime from the services they are getting, like my daughter Clara. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laura Johansen

A very concerned mother of a smart visually impaired girl!