

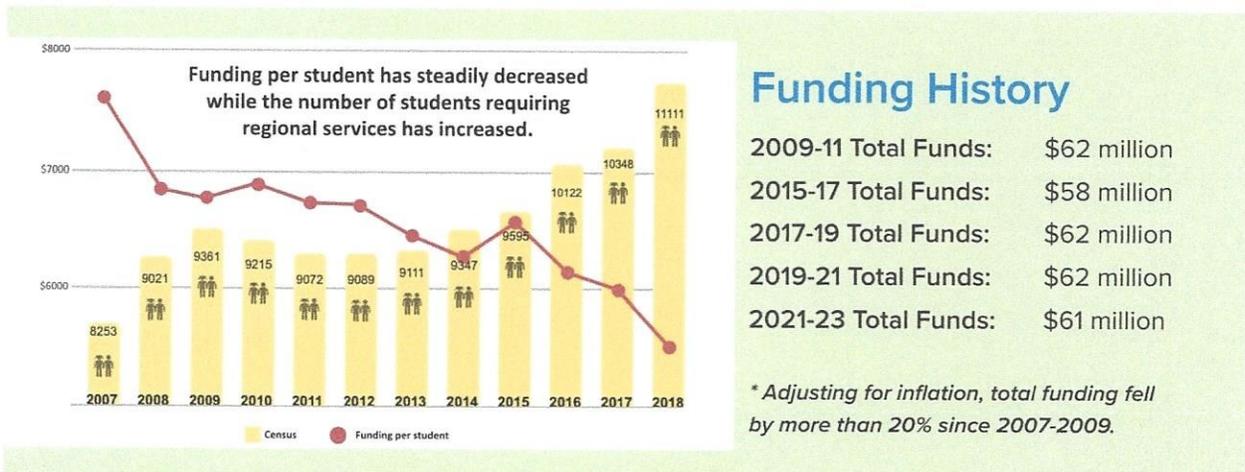
March 24, 2021

Subject: Support for SB 5513, Regional Programs Funding

To Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education -

Oregon's 11,000+ students who experience visual impairment, orthopedic impairment, deafness or hard of hearing, deaf-blindness, traumatic brain injury and/or autism spectrum disorder need an appropriate and accessible education in their home district. **Regional Inclusive Services provides training, technical tools, and additional support to educators so that all schools, no matter their size or location, can deliver an inclusive education.**

**Unfortunately, adjusting for inflation, total funding to RIS programs has fallen by more than 20% since 2007.** As a result, critical services for the students and families we serve have been reduced or eliminated from many programs.



The current proposed governor's budget will, at best, fund services at the current levels. In order to begin to restore services to 2009 levels, we request an additional \$10 million be budgeted from the General Fund for the 2021-23 biennium. This funding would accomplish the following key priorities:

- Recruit and retain Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind consultants. Oregon is currently experiencing a staffing shortage in these areas.
- Restore Autism services to 2009 levels and increase capacity to support and engage families, support evaluation services

■ Clatsop County  
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3194 Marine Drive  
Astoria, OR 97103

■ Columbia County  
503-366-4100  
800 Port Avenue  
St. Helens, OR 97051

■ Tillamook County  
503-842-8423  
2515 3rd Street  
Tillamook, OR 97141

■ Washington County  
503-614-1428  
5825 NE Ray Circle  
Hillsboro, OR 97124



- Increase student access to specialized equipment and assistive technology such as mobility and communication devices, specialized software, braille readers and embossers
- Increase supports to families, such as parent classes, 1:1 coaching, support for in-home learning activities

Regional Inclusive Services recently changed its name from Regional Programs to more specifically and accurately describe its function. The statewide program consists of the Oregon Department of Education and several education service districts, school districts and other community agencies who work in partnership to ensure educators and schools across Oregon are equipped with the tools, skills and resources to deliver an accessible education for all children.

Thank you for your support of Oregon's Regional Inclusive Services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two circles connected by a wavy line.

Dan Goldman  
Superintendent  
Northwest Regional ESD

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