

Senate Bill 633

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK; Senator DEMBROW, Representatives HUDSON, NELSON (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes program to provide high-quality services and improved outcomes through regional centers for special education and related services. Sunsets program June 30, 2029.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to regional centers for special education and related services; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall establish a program to provide high-**
5 **quality services and improved outcomes through regional centers for special education and**
6 **related services.**

7 (2) An entity may apply to participate in the program if the entity is a school district,
8 an education service district or a nonprofit organization. A nonprofit organization that par-
9 ticipates in the program may enter into a partnership with a school district or an education
10 service district for the purpose of providing services under the program.

11 (3) The department shall select three entities to participate in the program. The three
12 entities must be:

13 (a) A nonprofit organization that operates in a large metropolitan area and that has been
14 serving children with disabilities for at least five years.

15 (b) A school district or an education service district that serves a rural area.

16 (c) A school district or an education service district that serves a different geographic
17 region than is served by the entities described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.

18 (4) The department shall prescribe the timelines by which an entity may submit an ap-
19 plication to receive moneys under this section and the form of the application.

20 (5) A school district or an education service district that participates in the program
21 must provide services under the program to all children of this state, regardless of whether
22 the child is a resident of the school district or the education service district.

23 (6) Each participating entity must provide intensive, wraparound, trauma-informed ser-
24 vices that are evidence based, focus on improving outcomes for children and families, and
25 meet equity and diversity goals identified by the department.

26 (7) Each participating entity shall track and report on metrics and data related to the
27 outcomes of children served through the program. Reports must be provided on an annual
28 basis to the department in the manner and form prescribed by the department.

29 (8) The department shall distribute an implementation grant to each participating entity
30 to enable the entity to establish and provide services as required under the program.

31 (9) For a child receiving services under the program, the department shall distribute to

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the participating entity:

2 (a) The additional amount allowed and calculated under ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(i) for each
3 child with a disability who is receiving services under the program. Notwithstanding ORS
4 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(i), when a participating entity receives an amount under this paragraph for
5 a child, that child may not be included in calculations of:

6 (A) Additional amounts attributable to the child under ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(i) and dis-
7 tributed from the State School Fund.

8 (B) The percentage limitation specified in ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A)(i) for the participating
9 entity or, when different, the district in which the child is a resident.

10 (b) Any applicable funding allowed from the High Cost Disabilities Account established in
11 ORS 327.348. Notwithstanding ORS 327.348 (2) and (3), the department shall distribute the
12 amount from the account when the approved costs exceed \$19,000 and distribute an amount
13 that equals the approved costs minus \$19,000. Any amounts distributed under this paragraph
14 must be made available to the participating entity providing services to the child.

15 (10)(a) The department shall provide technical assistance to the entities participating in
16 the program, including assistance with maximizing Medicaid billing. For the purpose of pro-
17 viding technical assistance, the department may enter into a contract with an entity with
18 experience in Medicaid billing.

19 (b) The department may expend no more than eight percent of the total amount made
20 available for the program for costs incurred by the department in the administration of the
21 program.

22 (11) The department shall submit reports to the interim committees of the Legislative
23 Assembly related to education as follows:

24 (a) The first report must be submitted no later than September 15, 2024, and must pro-
25 vide a preliminary evaluation on the progress of the program.

26 (b) The second report must be submitted no later than September 15, 2028, and must in-
27 clude a comprehensive evaluation on the outcomes of the program and include any recom-
28 mendations for legislation based on the results of the program.

29 (12) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration
30 of the program under this section, including:

31 (a) Subject to state and federal law and subject to the discretion of the board, any waiv-
32 ers from existing rules for entities participating in the program to further advance the pur-
33 poses of the program.

34 (b) Requirements related to the distribution of moneys under subsection (9) of this sec-
35 tion, including any limitations in the number of children for whom distributions will be made
36 from the High Cost Disabilities Account.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on June 30, 2029.

38 **SECTION 3.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
39 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
40 General Fund, the amount of \$9,900,000, which shall be expended as follows:

41 (1) \$1,500,000 for purposes of distributions made under section 1 (9)(a) of this 2023 Act;

42 (2) \$4,800,000 for deposit in the High Cost Disabilities Account for the purpose of distrib-
43 utions made under section 1 (9)(b) of this 2023 Act; and

44 (3) \$3,600,000 for purposes of implementation grants and other costs of the program es-
45 tablished by section 1 of this 2023 Act.

1 **SECTION 4. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
2 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**
3 **July 1, 2023.**

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