

# Vote YES on SB 858 – The Children’s Service Districts Bill

SB 858 would establish a new type of district to provide Children’s Services outside of school time (OST). SB 858 **allows** Oregon citizens **the right to collect signatures** to put an initiative on the ballot for voters to determine if their local community supports the formation of a Children’s Service District. SB 858 does not ask for State Funds. “Children’s Services” are broadly defined so that a community can customize the services being offered to best meet their children’s unique needs outside of school hours.

## Why is a Children’s Service District Needed?

- Lack of program availability and inadequate funding to provide OST support for children under the age of 18.
- Even prior to the pandemic, it was very difficult and costly to obtain quality early childhood, after school and summer care for children. The pandemic has exacerbated this problem, particularly for working women and communities of color.
  - Low and middle-income families with childcare needs are struggling with the high cost. With fewer programs as a result of COVID-19, costs will only get higher and availability will be limited.
- OST programs promote academic success, higher graduation rates, positive behavior and safety, and good citizenship.
  - By the time they reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade, economically disadvantaged children who do not participate in OST summer programs average 3 years behind their middle-income peers who do participate.
  - Kids who are at risk because of poverty and racial inequality need the proven benefits of OST programs to succeed.
- Women who utilize quality out of school time care have fewer absences from work and have a better income.
  - Families benefit by reduced costs freeing up a significant part of their hard-earned income to pay for housing, food, and medical care.
- Health and well-being of Native American youth in Oregon, like their non-tribal counterparts, have a great need for effective programs to create positive shifts in knowledge, self-esteem, and cultural identity as well as mental health, substance abuse, healthy relationships, and violence/bullying.

## What is a Children’s Service District?

- Examples of Children’s Services include, but are not limited to early childhood, after school & summer programs, which may include culture, arts & music, health & well-being, technology, and development of skills services for children & youth.
- This is a new tool to provide local funding for Children’s Services that occur outside of school time.
- How big is a Children’s Service District? As large or as small as the community wants it to be. The boundary could be a neighborhood, a town, part of a county, a whole county, or parts of multiple counties.
- Communities that are uninterested are under no obligation to form a Children’s Service District, just like they are not obligated to form an irrigation special district under existing law.

## How is a Children’s Service District Formed?

To establish a Children’s Service District to fund one or more services for children outside of school time, a community must:

1. File a petition to form the district in the county in which it would be located including a proposed permanent rate limit for operating taxes sufficient to support the services
2. The petition must be signed by either 10% of registered voters within the proposed district boundary or a minimum of 100 registered voters within the proposed district boundary, whichever is greater
3. If enough signatures are gathered and filed with the applicable county, the petition is voted on by all registered voters within the proposed district boundary. Board members would be elected at the same time
4. If passed by the voters within the proposed district boundary, a Children’s Service District is formed.

## Who Supports the Need for Children’s Service Districts?

◆ SB 858 has bi-partisan support. ◆

































CHAMPIONS