

Submitter: Megan Robertson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB595

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Webber, Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of bill 595. I am a parent to three Oregon students in grades 5, 7 and 10. All three are twice-exceptional, or 2E, meaning they are intellectually or academically highly capable and also have one or more learning differences, such as ADHD, autism, dysgraphia or clinical anxiety. As their parents, we've been keenly aware from their first entry into public school that without daily lessons designed to support their rate and level of learning, it is challenging for them to even attend school. Moreover, even though each of our kids is different from the next, they do not stand out to their schools as needing extra supports. They are well-behaved, respectful, quiet and perform above benchmark as a general rule. But they do not receive growth opportunities and feel unvalued.

I support a dedicated 1% of the OR School Fund allocated to TAG with 1/2 going to districts weighted by their total enrollment. Oregon's unfunded state mandates around TAG education, coupled with its precedent of local control, means that a whole population of students are under-resourced and inconsistently served. These students, especially those who are 2E, deserve consistent daily opportunities for educational growth and for that to happen, they need a dedicated budget because their educational needs require specific training, planning and resources.