

May 3, 2023

I am writing to advocate against Senate Bill 819. Serving *all* students in their least restrictive environment is *always* the top priority for our school district. Inclusive education exists on a continuum, it is not a 'one size fits all' approach. Students, parents and educators benefit from leeway to be flexible in differentiating the instructional structure to the specific needs of students. Decisions related to Abbreviated Day for students with significant behavior needs are (and should always be) driven by quantitative and qualitative data and the student's IEP team (i.e. school specialists, SPED teachers, Gen Ed. Teachers, parents, outside agencies, and school administrators).

At this time Senate Bill 819 burdens the IEP team with additional restraints regarding where services are delivered and limits scaffold supports to create successful outcomes in the following areas:

- Parents have the right to revoke consent of Abbreviated Day and the district has to reinstate a full day school day within 5-school days.
- Parents have to sign Abbreviated School Day paperwork every 30-calendar days with the reminder that they can revoke consent at any time and the district will reinstate a full day within 5-school days.
- Abbreviated Day meetings need to be held every 30 calendar days (this is another meeting that families will need to participate in addition to the many IEP related meetings already required).
- Superintendent oversight for any student that is on an Abbreviated Day for more than 60-cumulative calendar days and risks gross neglect of duty to their TSPC licensure.
- Undue hardship on tracking students that are in the review process of becoming eligible for an IEP or 504 Plan and within the prior 3-year window of being dismissed from an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Requirement of the same hours of synchronous instruction without flexibility of what that may look like other than all day in-person instruction.

At Crook County, we believe these to be the primary considerations for this SB:

- Additional funding must be connected with training and implementation for an SB with this level of impact
- A Mental Health infrastructure must be designed and available to support students across Oregon districts
- Funding and training for behavior programs will be needed for all schools (both large and small districts)
- Need for funding, recruitment and training of specialized personnel to keep students and school personnel safe when deploying this model

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Ritter

Crook County School Board Chair