

SB 868 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow

Meeting Dates: 1/27, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure requires the Oregon Department of Education to develop a formula to calculate the costs of operating and administering a regional special education program, and to submit and post online a report about the differences in funding from the formula and the approved funding, and the reasons for the differences in funding each even-numbered year.

Fiscal impact: Minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding barriers for regional special education programs.
- Availability of the funding formula development roadmap.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, regional programs for children with low incidence disabilities serve children ages 0 to 21 who require specialized services and meet eligibility requirements. The types of disabilities that would allow a child to be eligible include hearing impairments, vision impairments, autism spectrum disorders, orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury. Because the occurrence of these types of disabilities is relatively rare, school districts find it difficult to employ specialized staff in these areas.

In 2021, Senate Bill 53 required the State Board of Education to study efficient and effective funding methods in regional inclusive service education programs. The [Regional Inclusive Service Senate Bill 53 Report](#) recommends that the Regional Inclusive Service programs receive a stable revenue stream to provide adequate funding to students who experience low incidence disabilities.