



**COALITION OF  
OREGON SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS**



---

Date: January 27, 2025

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Adrienne Anderson, Oregon School Boards Association  
Morgan Allen, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators

Subject: Support for SB 868 - Adequacy of Funding for Regional Inclusive Services (RIS)

---

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and the Oregon School Boards Association, we submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 868. The bill creates a mechanism to develop an “adequate service level” related to funding Regional Inclusive Services (RIS). This information can then be utilized by the Legislature and stakeholders to inform biennial funding requests and allocations for (RIS).

### **The Importance of Regional Inclusive Services (RIS)**

RIS programs support children and students who experience low incidence disabilities, including: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deafblind, Orthopedic Impairments, and Traumatic Brain Injuries; many of the 13,000+ children served each year experience multiple disabilities and require highly specialized equipment and trained staff to access their education program.

According to the Oregon Department of Education, RIS programs:

“support(s) educators with training, tools, and resources to ensure inclusive education for all students, regardless of district size or location. This statewide program is a partnership between the Oregon Department of Education, education service districts, and community agencies, coordinated by regional advisory councils and a management team. These specialized services, often unavailable locally, include instruction in areas like Braille, sign language, assistive technology, and independent living skills. They also provide audiology, physical, and occupational therapy, with support for implementing Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) or Individualized Education Programs (IEP).”

Unfortunately, funding for the ESDs and school districts who serve as state contractors for these programs has been inconsistent, flat, or has lagged behind caseload growth and the



**COALITION OF  
OREGON SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS**



---

growing needs of the students the programs serve.

Based on the input of experts, providers, and stakeholders, a recommended funding level of \$122.4 million is being requested for the 2025-27 biennium; the GRB funding level is about \$70 million.

### **SB 868 Creates a Sustainable Funding Formula For Legislative Consideration**

While a legislative body cannot obligate a future legislative body to fund programs and services at a specific dollar amount, SB 868 directs ODE to report to the Legislature on the necessary amount of funding the agency, program experts, and stakeholders believe is necessary to provide adequate levels of service to students served by RIS.

This information will prove invaluable for future governors and legislators to make an informed decision on biennial funding allocations for these critical services for our students who experience low-incidence disabilities.

Please join both OSBA and COSA in supporting SB 868.