



# COLUMBIA REGIONAL INCLUSIVE SERVICES

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January 28, 2025

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

On behalf of Columbia Regional Inclusive Services and Portland Public Schools, we urge your support for Senate Bill 868. This bill requires ODE to report to the Legislature the “adequate service level” related to funding Regional Inclusive Services (RIS) every biennium. This information can then be utilized by the Legislature and stakeholders to inform the biennial allocations for (RIS).

Regional Inclusive Services (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.

Columbia Regional Inclusive Services (CRIS), is the largest provider of Regional Inclusive Services in the state, and serves 5680 students in Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah, and Wasco counties. We are proud to partner with educators in the twenty-two school districts and three education service districts. CRIS provides a continuum of educational services including direct instruction to students, consultation for school teams, and early intervention programs. CRIS specialists provide unique expertise in the areas of assistive technology, augmentative communication, specialized equipment, and classrooms for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Finally, CRIS offers support for families through American Sign Language Classes, Literacy Nights, and EI/ECSE playgroups.

For the 2025-27 biennium, experts, providers, and numerous stakeholders are recommending a funding level of \$122.4 million for Regional Inclusive Services, a significant increase from the \$70 million included in the Governor’s Recommended Budget.

According to the [SB 53 report](#) to the Oregon Legislature (2022), “the expansion of eligibility paired with longstanding and continued underfunding of RIS has resulted in an ongoing reduction of special education services to students in all low-incidence disability categories.” SB 868 will mitigate these funding challenges in the future by requiring 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. We urge you to support SB 868 and to fund RIS services at \$122.4 million this session.

*Lisa McConachie*

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