



West Linn-Wilsonville School District • 22210 SW Stafford Road • Tualatin, OR 97225 • www.wlww.k12.or.us

February 17, 2025

Respectfully Submitted to the Oregon House Education Committee:

Representative Courtney Neron, Chair
Representative April Dobson, Vice-Chair
Representative Emily McIntire, Vice-Chair

Re: Special Education Funding, Raising the Cap to 15%

Dear House Education Committee,

Over the coming months you will hear powerful testimony including stories of how K-12 public school districts in Oregon deserve additional special education funding to meet the growing needs of its students. This letter will allow you to compare Oregon’s outdated special education funding to other states using the same funding mechanism (Source: Education Commission on States, K-12 Funding 2024).

50 States Use 6 Different Funding Methods (or combinations) for Special Education Funding:

- Single weight (same % regardless type of disability)
- Multiple weights (different % based on types of disability)
- Categorical/Block Grant
- Census-based
- Reimbursement
- Resource allocation

The National percentage of students in special education is 15%. Oregon is 15%. (Source: NCES.ed.gov)

Comparing States like Oregon that use Single Weight, Amount Per Student, Cap or no Cap

| State | Single Weight Amount (per student with an IEP) | % Cap or NO CAP |
|----------------|---|--|
| Oregon | Additional 100% per student | 11% |
| Missouri | Additional 75% per student | 13.11% |
| Maryland | Additional 99% per student, adjusting to 146% by 2032 | NO CAP |
| Louisiana | Additional 150% per student | NO CAP |
| South Carolina | Additional 160% per student | NO CAP |
| Washington | Additional 106% per student (<80% time in general education) Additional 112% per student (>80% time in general education) Two-tiered system to encourage inclusion in general education | 2017 = 13.5% 2023 = 15% 2024 = 16% |

It is time for Oregon to catch up to other states who apply a “single weight” methodology by either raising the percentage per student to meet the national/state average of 15% or removing the cap altogether.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ludwig, Superintendent
West Linn-Wilsonville School District, A Special Education Full Inclusion School District