



Mission: FACT Oregon empowers families, youth, and communities to navigate disability systems, advocating together for disability justice and policy change so that people with disabilities have what they need to thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.

February 17, 2025

Chair Courtney Neron

Vice-Chair April Dobson

Vice-Chair Emily McIntire

Members of the House Committee on Education

Support for HB 2682 – Support for EI/ECSE Funding Modernization Committee

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntire and Members of the Committee,

FACT Oregon is a family-led nonprofit that supports families, youth with disabilities, and partners in holding high expectations, navigating special education and disability systems, and advocating for the supports needed to thrive at home, in school, and in the community. Since 2012, we have served as the state and federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for special education.

A child's earliest experiences shape lifelong learning. During early childhood, one million neural connections are formed every second, making this a critical window for intervention. For children with disabilities and developmental delays, access to timely, high-quality Early Intervention (EI) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services is essential to improving long-term educational and life outcomes.

Yet, Oregon's EI/ECSE funding model has not been updated since 2011, relying on outdated research and assumptions that no longer reflect the needs of children, families, or educators. As of April 2024, 14,544 children were enrolled in EI/ECSE, a number that has steadily increased over the past four years. However, only 66% of children in EI receive the recommended level of services, and for ECSE, the numbers drop significantly—just 54% of children with moderate needs and only 20% of those with high needs receive appropriate services.

This gap is driven by rising enrollment, workforce shortages, geographic disparities, and a funding structure that has failed to keep pace with demand. HB 2682 directs the Oregon Department of Education to convene an advisory committee to modernize the EI/ECSE funding model, ensuring services align with current research, best practices, and the needs of children and families.

This work is essential and overdue. We urge the committee to support HB 2682 to ensure that Oregon's youngest learners receive the strong start they deserve.

Thank you,

Christy Reese

Executive Director

FACT Oregon