



February 17, 2025

Matt Serres, Policy Director
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
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Portland, OR 97214

RE: Testimony to House Committee on Education for House Bill 2682
(Neutral)

To Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the
Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. We learn from our earliest experiences and continue to learn throughout our lives. Free and appropriate public education from a young age fosters growth, empowerment, and well-being.

The Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) funding model for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs is based on caseload projections, service costs, and inflation rates, but the current model—last updated in 2011—needs revision to better reflect actual needs. The advisory committee established by HB 2682 would develop recommendations to modernize the Adequate Service Levels for EI/ECSE, by utilizing the latest research and the actual experience of those utilizing services.

A recent report commissioned by the Alliance for Early Intervention developed several recommendations that would improve the funding model including:



- Using the June, July or August number of eligible children rather than the rolling average to better reflects staffing needs and constant workload required by EI/ECSE programs.
- Adequately accounting for other activities that need funding including child find/referral, initial screening, eligibility determination, IFSP development, and placement determination.
- Applying relevant suggestions from the Governor’s K-12 funding group to EI/ECSE programs, including 49/51 CSL split, adjusting compensation to reflect forecasting error, using the Standard School Rate for all districts, and addressing increased PERS rates.
- Legislative action necessary to update the EI/ECSE funding model.
- Increasing preschool time for moderate and severe categories to align with best practice of 30 hours per week when calculating the Adequate Service Level.
- Creating a methodology to more accurately project caseloads and growth.

More information about those recommendations can be found in the report.¹

By updating the funding model for EI/ECSE, children with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have better access to a full and inclusive education from the outset of their lives. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2682.

¹ Alliance for Early Education, “Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Funding Recommendations for 2025-27 Biennium,” pp 7-8 (January 2025). Available here: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/127117>