



February 17, 2025

Matt Serres, Policy Director  
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities  
2475 SE Ladd Ave #231  
Portland, OR 97214

RE: Testimony to House Committee on Education for House Bill 2953 (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. There is no cap on the obligation to provide essential supports for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). However, the State School Fund utilizes an artificial cap when weighing the amount of money to provide school districts based on special education enrollment.

The current special education funding formula limits the number of students a district can count for special education at just 11%, even though the national and state average for students on Individualized Education Plans is 15%.<sup>1</sup> Some school districts may be as high as 18%. House Bill 2953 removes the cap and that will help increase the degree to which special education costs are factored into State School Fund distributions.

With the right investment to cover the costs, school districts can fulfill their responsibility to serve students with disabilities with true equity. Any increase in

---

<sup>1</sup> Oregon School Boards Association. "State School Fund Shorts Special Education Funding Costs." Available at <https://www.osba.org/state-school-fund-shorts-special-education-funding-costs/>



Oregon Council on  
Developmental Disabilities

BETTER TOGETHER

the cap must be fully funded to guarantee that all students, regardless of their needs, receive the support they deserve. School administrators in turn should harness those resources to continuously improve and enhance special education services. Eliminating the cap and fully funding special education are powerful steps, but it must be paired with an equal commitment to delivering the highest quality education for persons with I/DD. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2953.