



**Eugene School District 4J**  
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February 17, 2025

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Eugene 4J School Board is submitting this testimony in support of HB 2953, which proposes eliminating the funding cap on the number of students eligible for and receiving services in special education. The Eugene 4J School Board has identified adequate funding for education, and specifically special education, as a top priority for the 2025 legislative session.

This bill directly relates to this priority. The current limit of 11% of a district's student population puts an undo burden on school districts' budgets. By limiting the increased funding calculated in the school funding formula to at most 11% of a district's enrollment, this pool of funds cannot adequately cover the needs of all children in special education on IEPs as it is well under the percent of students who qualify for special education services in most school districts in Oregon.

Special Education law requires school districts to identify and serve ALL children who qualify for special education. Districts are required by law to provide qualifying students specialized instruction and the supports needed for them to make adequate educational progress. As a result, other state school funds are needed to be used to meet these requirements. This adversely impacts our ability to meet other education needs and priorities.

Between 14-15% of Eugene School District 4J students are eligible for special education services each year. As mandated by law, we are providing all of the services and supports identified on each student's IEPs. With the special education funding cap set at 11%, the additional funding we currently receive for students on IEPs does not cover the true cost of these services. The cap falls short of covering 3-4% of those students.

If the 11% cap is eliminated or raised it will require more money to be allocated to the State School Fund (SSF) for this purpose. If the 11% cap is eliminated and the legislature does not make a commensurate increase in the SSF, Eugene 4J School District will actually receive less funding overall – making it more difficult to meet the needs of students with and without disabilities. We strongly support raising or eliminating the current 11% funding cap to districts for students in special education as proposed in HB 2953 and we ask that the Legislature ensure additional funding needed to make this meaningful be included with this action.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.  
If we can be of any further assistance with information, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
The Eugene 4J School Board

