



State Interagency
Coordinating Council

February 17, 2025

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the House Education Committee,

We are writing in support of House Bill 2682 and asking the Committee to approve this bill so this important work can move forward. We are the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs, a statutorily required Council that is charged with advising and assisting on unmet needs, policies and funding related to services for young children with developmental delays and disabilities in Oregon. (ORS 343.499)

Oregon's funding formula for EI/ECSE programs was developed in 2009 at the direction of the Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon State Legislature and updated only once since then in 2011. The formula is now outdated because current standards and quality practices in early learning programs nationwide have changed and improved based on evidence and experience. This is the case for typically developing birth to 5 year old children and children with developmental delays and disabilities. In addition, the current methodology for caseload calculations, workloads and the unique circumstances EI/ECSE programs face are being studied and analyzed for adequacy in the current context.

This bill directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish an advisory committee to study current practices, experiences and research and then develop recommendations to update the adequate service levels for EI/ECSE services that reflect current quality practices and standards and the actual cost of adequately serving young children with developmental delays and disabilities.

The SICC has long been aware of the need to update the funding formula to reflect the actual work and current practices and research in early learning so children in EI/ECSE programs receive quality services and supports and do not fall further behind their peers.

Thank you for considering this critical need to update the services and methodology for EI/ECSE programs in Oregon. Please approve HB 2682.

Sincerely,

The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

Kevin Anderson, Chair of the SICC