



February 19, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of Portland Public Schools, I urge you to support HB 2682 which directs the Oregon Department of Education to convene an advisory committee to provide input to modernize the EI/ECSE funding model.

**Early childhood experiences play a critical role in children’s brain development, which establishes the foundation for all future learning.** It is essential that students have access to high quality Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) services including special education screening, evaluation, services and support. Accessing these robust EI/ECSE services sets up our students for success in their K-12 learning journeys.

As our state continues to build on improvements in funding for special education through HB 2953 and HB 2448, it is also critical to ensure that a full spectrum of support and services are available to children from birth to K-12 and beyond. Please support this long overdue effort to modernize the EI/ECSE funding model. We urge your support of HB 2682.

Thank you,

Lisa Merrick  
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Portland Public Schools