



To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Oregon Education Association
Re: Support for HB 2953 (2025)

Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

On February 12th, 2024, the Oregon Department of Education [gave a presentation to the House Committee on Education](#). OEA would like to [highlight their presentation](#); but more specifically we'd like to highlight the 12th slide, copied below.

The key is the distinction between what is, and/or has been, unfunded when discussing weights. In the table you can see “# of Unfunded Education Weights” is at 19,447. This illustrates that when the weights waivers were created, there was not a subsequent increase in funding; meaning that the waivers have effectively pushed money around in the same way that lifting the weights without additional funding would do. While there are 7,064 waivers, and 12,383 “Unfunded Students” according to the formula as constructed; the reality is that those waived weights have only served to lessen services in other places while trying to shore up services in others.

OEA strongly believes that the waived weights must also be funded in order to rectify the 35-year-old inequity that is the Special Education weight cap in the distribution formula.

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Background

Special Education Weight

- The special education weight in the State School Fund is capped at 11% of ADMr (student enrollment).
- The 11% cap has not changed since the formula was developed in the 1990s.

Cap Waiver Weight

- The cap waiver provides weights above the 11% cap.
- ODE conducts a comparative analysis to distribute the cap waiver weights to school districts that have an especially high numbers of students on an IEP and/or especially high expenditures to support their students in special education.

School Year	ADMr	# Students in Special Education	Special Education Weight (capped at 11%)	# Unfunded Special Education Weight (due to 11% cap)	Cap Waiver Weights (above 11%)	# Unfunded Special Education Students
2022-23	543,685	79,025	59,578	19,447	7,064	12,383

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*from ODE presentation to House Education 2/12/2024