

Submitter: Bolton Primary PTA
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953
Subject: Support for Oregon House Bill 2953 – Lifting the Special Education Cap

Dear House Revenue Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for Oregon House Bill 2953, which seeks to eliminate the current cap on special education funding. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that all students with disabilities receive the services and support they need to thrive in our schools.

Under the current system, state funding for special education is capped at 11% of a school district's student population. This arbitrary limit fails to account for the actual number of students requiring specialized services, forcing schools to make difficult financial decisions that can compromise the quality of education for all students. By lifting this cap, HB 2953 would allow schools to receive the full funding necessary to meet the needs of every student, ensuring equitable access to education as mandated by federal law.

Special education services are not optional; they are a legal and moral obligation. When funding falls short, students suffer—often receiving inadequate resources and fewer individualized supports. This disproportionately affects rural and low-income districts, where funding shortages are already a challenge. HB 2953 represents a necessary step toward aligning state funding with the actual needs of Oregon's students, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and equity in education.

We urge you to support HB 2953 and advocate for its passage. Investing in special education is an investment in the future of Oregon's children, ensuring that every student, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to succeed. Thank you for your time and your dedication to supporting students with disabilities, as well as all Oregon students.

Sincerely,

Bolton Primary PTA Leaders

Toni Collard, President
Melissa Moffitt, Co-Vice President
Jackie Rosales, Co-Vice President
Kerry Bruce, Secretary

Jeanece Perrolle, Treasurer