



LANE EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

1200 Highway 99 North
Eugene, OR 97402

541.461.8200
541.461.8298 [Fax]

www.lesd.k12.or.us

EQUITY COMMITMENT LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION INTEGRITY

March 26, 2025

Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

For the record, my name is Dr. Annie Galaxy, and I am the Director of Lane Regional Inclusive Services and the Associate Director of Special Education at Lane Education Service District. Through the Regional Inclusive Services Grant, we support hundreds of students, from birth to age 21, with high-intensity disabilities across Lane County's sixteen school districts. Our program ensures that students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, deafblind, have traumatic brain injuries, orthopedic impairments, and/or autism receive their right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in Lane County schools.

The disabilities we specialize in are so unique that, often, when we first work with a teacher, they've never encountered a student who is deaf, blind, or deafblind. They may never have the opportunity to again. However, while that student is in their classroom or school, we are committed to supporting the team to ensure that the student's educational experience is equitable and positive for everyone involved. Our districts often lack the staffing resources or expertise to manage these specialized needs on their own, nor would it be realistic to expect them to. Still, the responsibility to provide every student with FAPE remains.

The Grants-In-Aid budget is essential to our continued funding. We are requesting that you invest an additional \$50 million from this budget, which would stabilize our funding at \$122 million for the 2025-2027 biennium. While Governor Kotek has proposed a funding formula for Regional Inclusive Services (SB 868), this will take time—and we don't have that luxury. At Lane Regional Inclusive Services, we are working closely with our districts, statewide Regional Inclusive Services partners, and community organizations to collaborate and share resources. However, without full funding, our current program will not be sustainable.



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Without the services we provide, students with high-impact disabilities risk being left out of learning. We teach teachers how to make lessons accessible to students without sight, we help whole classes learn how to work with sign language interpreters. We work in classrooms to create environments where students with orthopedic impairments are just one-of-the-kids. We help create communities of belonging, where students feel safe to explore, take risks, fail, grow, and thrive. We walk alongside teachers and schools in this work, and we need your help.

Thank you for your dedication to Oregon's students with high-impact disabilities, and to all of Oregon's learners.

Sincerely,

Annie Galaxy

Annie Galaxy, PhD

Director, Lane Regional Inclusive Services

Associate Director of Special Education, Lane Education Service District