



April 16, 2025

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Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
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RE: Testimony to Senate Committee on Education for HB 2682 (Neutral)

To Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) from a young age fosters growth, empowerment, and well-being. The earlier we invest in a child's learning, the greater the lifelong return—both for the individual and for society.

The Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) funding model for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs—which is based on caseload projections, service costs, and inflation rates—would better serve people with IDD by revising it to reflect actual needs. The funding model has not been updated since 2011. The advisory committee established by HB 2682 would develop recommendations to modernize the Adequate Service Levels for EI/ECSE, by utilizing the latest research and the actual experience of families utilizing services.

A recent report commissioned by the Alliance for Early Intervention developed several recommendations that would improve the funding model including:



- Using the June, July or August number of eligible children rather than the rolling average to better reflects staffing needs and constant workload required by EI/ECSE programs.
- Adequately accounting for other activities that need funding including child find/referral; initial screening, eligibility determination, Individual Family Service Plan development, and placement determination.
- Applying relevant suggestions from the Governor’s K-12 funding group to EI/ECSE programs, including a 49/51 Current Service Level split for each biennium (49% the first year and 51% the second year); adjusting compensation to reflect forecasting errors; using the Standard School Rate for all districts; and addressing increased PERS rates.
- Identifying legislative action necessary to update the EI/ECSE funding model.
- Increasing preschool time for moderate and severe categories to align with best practice of 30 hours per week when calculating the Adequate Service Level.
- Creating a methodology that more accurately projects caseloads and growth.

More information about those recommendations can be found in the report, which is available through OLIS.¹

By updating the funding model for EI/ECSE, children with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have improved access to a full and inclusive education from the outset of their lives. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2682.

¹ Alliance for Early Education, “Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) Funding Recommendations for 2025-27 Biennium,” pp 7-8 (January 2025). Available here: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/127117>